HOW TO BUILD YOUR FIRST DIORAMA »

FineScale Modeler®

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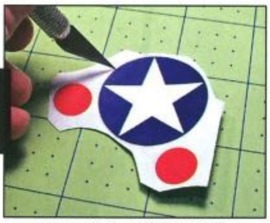
October 2011

The essential tool for model builders

BUILD THE MODEL YOU WANT

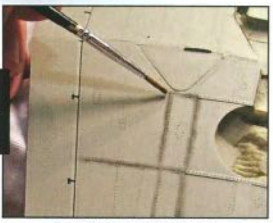
LEARN THE BASICS OF BACKDATING

Phillip Gore's
1/32 scale
"Battle of Midway"
Avenger
Page 28



TRIM AND APPLY DECALS

MODIFY KIT PARTS



DARKEN PANEL LINES

PLUS

- How to work with photoetched-metal detail parts
- Profile: Golden-age box top illustrator Mort Künstler

OUR EXPERTS BUILD & REVIEW 14 NEW KITS SEE PAGE 54

Fujimi's 1/350 scale *Zuikaku*

$5.95

10

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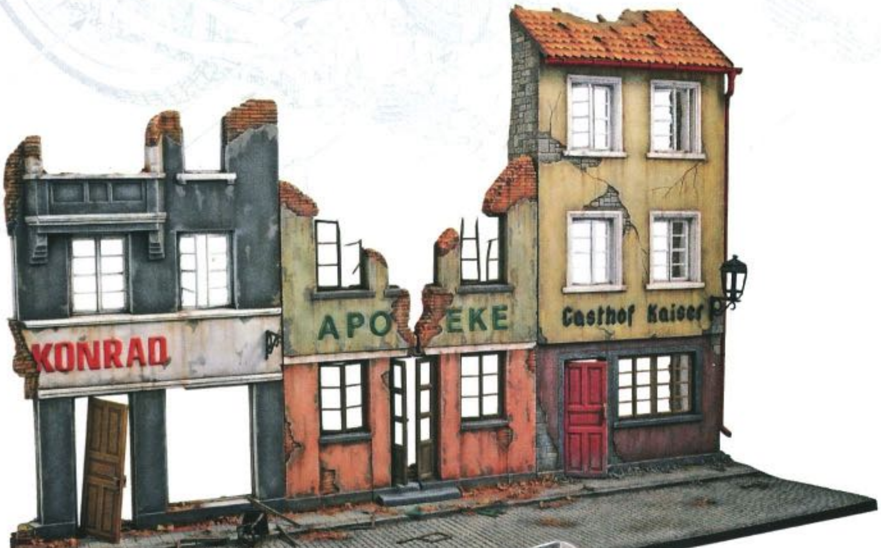
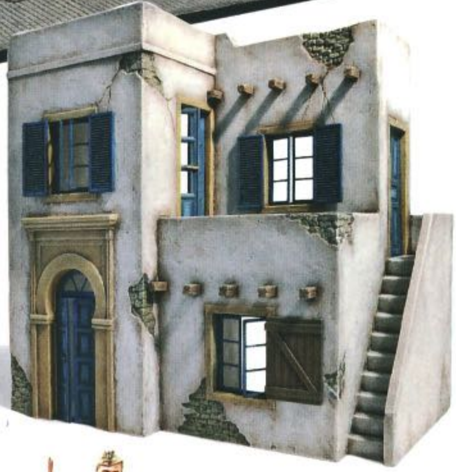
Vol. 29 • Issue 8

MiniArt

WHERE INNOVATION IS ALWAYS AT WORK

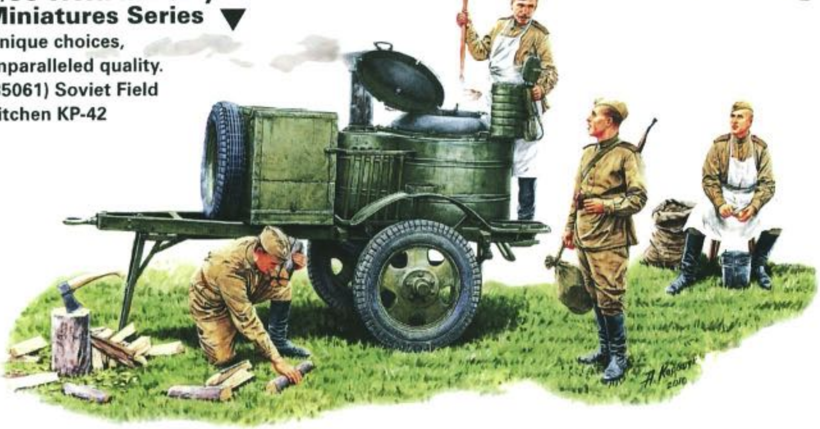


▲
1/35 Diorama Series
The first diorama collection in plastic. (36037) German Street



1/35 Building & Accessories Series ▶
Precision kits with scenes not available elsewhere. (35540) North African House

1/35 WWII Military Miniatures Series ▼
Unique choices, unparalleled quality. (35061) Soviet Field Kitchen KP-42



INNOVATIVE KIT SELECTION

At MiniArt, we take great pride in our choice of kits. Creativity and innovation are the key influences in our selection. You'll find our subject matter either has never been made in plastic, or never made to our elevated quality standards.

THE ONLY SERIES OF ITS KIND IN PLASTIC

Our models feed your imagination and satisfy your hunger for what's new and original. For example, MiniArt's 1/35 Diorama Series is the only diorama series available in plastic. It showcases new and battle scarred buildings from WWII Europe. Each kit is true to the architecture of the period. Creative flourishes like an advertisement on a street kiosk, period lampposts and more are sprinkled throughout. Some kits also feature military figures, weapons and vehicles.

ONLY LIFE'S FIGURES ARE MORE CONVINCING

MiniArt's plastic figures are among the best in the world. Often, as part of the molding process, a sculptor sets to work to capture every facial crease and detail. So perfect is the result, that at times, you'll even recognize nationalities by the crop of their hair, the jut of their jaw, or their facial expression.

For more about MiniArt scan the QR code with your smartphone. If you need a QR reader download a free app online.

To see the full line of MRC-MiniArt plastic kits, visit us at www.modelrectifier.com

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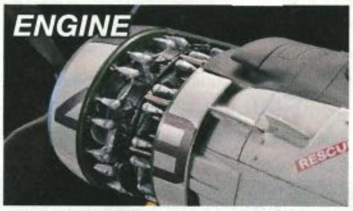
Sometimes from warships, sometimes through the freezing cold mountains, and sometimes in the skies above the jungle

This most reliable plane, known as a flying "Tough Guy" is coming as a new SWS!

Douglas 1/32 A-1H SKYRAIDER U.S.NAVY

To be released in SEPTEMBER 2011 ACCEPTING PRE-ORDERS

*The model in the picture shown is a sample from the development stage. *The kit does not include U.S. Aircraft Weapons.
*Please note that the Bonus Figure sets are no longer available. *Orders from Volks USA may arrive later than Japan release.



ENGINE

If you open up the engine cowling, inside, the high-intensity, twin row, 18-cylinder "Wright R-3350" radial engine has been faithfully reproduced! From the exhaust piping to the baffle plate, even the peripherals have been reproduced so that the engine surroundings are fully loaded with highlights! Please also focus your attention on how it all attaches to the cowl!

NOSE TO CANOPY

The section that connects the nose to the canopy is an extremely important part that can also be called the "face" of the airplane. Our sculptor put his very soul into the molding! The shape of area surrounding the nose intake, although configured into complex lines that were extremely difficult to recreate, has been magnificently reproduced, SWS style!

LANDING GEAR

The distinctive truss structure distributes both the impact of a carrier landing and the weight of loaded armament, maintaining the plane's integrity. It's because it's the SWS that we were able to reproduce even this aspect! In contrast to the solid main landing gear assemblies and truss structures, please notice that delicate structures such as the brake tubes and cylinders have also been precisely recreated! As can be expected from the SWS!

ARMAMENTS

Make sure to give some attention to the details of the armament hardpoints on the pylons, one of the highlights of the Skyraider, which boasts the largest payload of any reciprocating engine attack fighter! The kit comes with 2 external fuel tanks as standard additions. Utilizing the "US Aircraft Weapons for Skyraider" set (sold separately), it's possible for you to recreate the strongest carrier attack fighter!

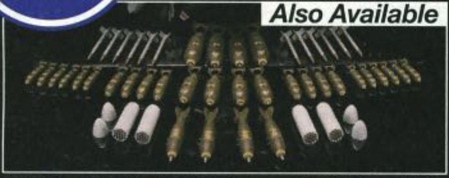
PRICE: 13,440 YEN Order via Volks Japan (in JP Yen) **PRICE: $141.00** Order via Volks USA (in US Dollars)

[**• 1/32 scale • Plastic Model Kit** (4-color molded parts including clear.) **Main wings can be folded. Main wing folding system includes brass hinges and poly-caps. • Total Parts: 340** (expected)]

SUPER WING OPTIONS

A-1H SKYRAIDER EXTRA PARTS

ACCEPTING PRE-ORDERS



Also Available

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- Pitot Tube, etc.

AV
GULL GRAY

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- Brush Cleaner x 1

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EXTERIOR SET 2

1,890YEN / $20.00
- Photo-Etched Parts(Wing parts such as pylons, gun panels, etc.)

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USS INDEPENDENCE

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- Collaboration with Micro Scale
- Included Items:1 Decal

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SWS LINE UP → 1. SHINDEN 2. Focke-Wulf Ta152H-1 3. DOUGLAS A-1H SKYRAIDER U.S.NAVY 4. P-51D Mustang (release date: TBA)

NORTH AMERICAN
P-51D MUSTANG™
Blondie
QP

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the trademarks owned by Boeing.

P-51 Mustang™

Overall Length: 308mm
Wingspan: 354mm

Powered By an American Wizard

The P-51D Mustang is considered by many to be the best fighter aircraft of WWII. It incorporated advanced features such as a laminar flow wing and a superb radiator design. Powered by the Packard-built Rolls-Royce Merlin V-1650 engine, it demonstrated superior performance including an impressive maximum range of 3,700km and a top speed of 703km/h. The P-51D, with its teardrop-shaped "bubble" canopy as well as heavier armament of six 12.7mm machine guns, is widely considered to be the definitive variant of the Mustang. European deployment of the P-51D began in the summer of 1944 and they were used to escort bombers such as B-17s and B-24s all the way to Germany. P-51Ds were instrumental in helping the Allies gain air superiority over Europe. Tamiya has reproduced this famous aircraft with utmost accuracy for addition to the 1/32 Scale Aircraft Series. The unmistakable form of the P-51D, including distinctive wing profile and radiator mechanisms, is accurately reproduced based on actual design drawings of the aircraft as well as thorough study of actual examples. Line it up with Tamiya's 1/32 scale Supermarine Spitfires and A6M Zeroes for a display of iconic WWII fighters.

Take a Closer Look at this Legendary WWII Fighter

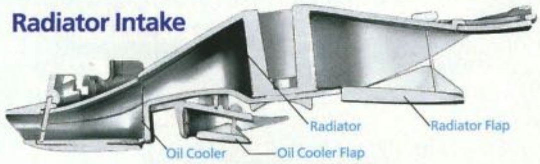
Magnets enable the ultra-thin engine cowlings to be detached even after assembly.

Early- and late-type instrument panels and seats are included.

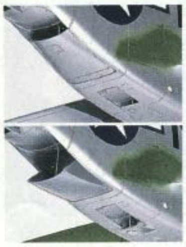
The six 12.7mm Browning machine guns along with ammunition belts are accurately reproduced.

Wheel wells are also highly detailed. Solid rubber tires feature accurate tread patterns.

Radiator Intake



Radiator intake details are reproduced just like those on the actual aircraft. Both the radiator and oil cooler flaps are movable.

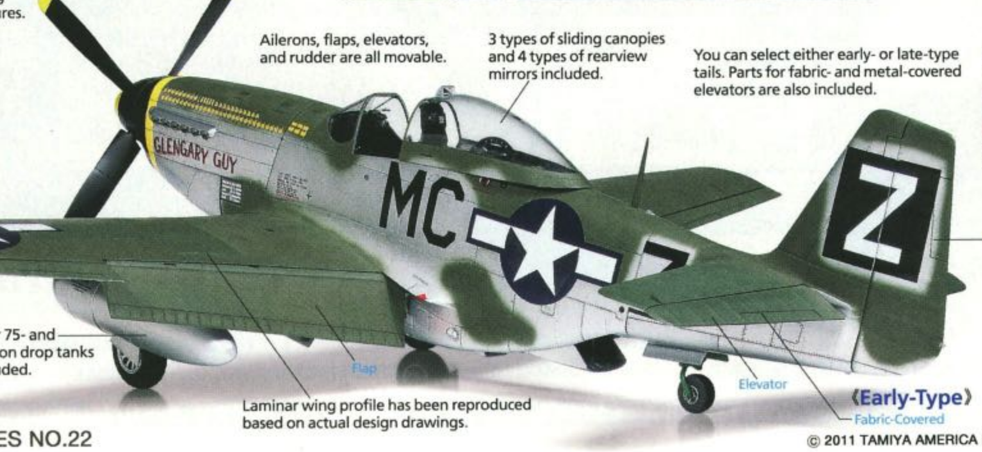


★Comes with a display stand to depict the aircraft in flight.

★Comes with 3 types of markings to depict aircraft from the U.S. 8th Air Force

- ●334th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group
- ●487th Fighter Squadron, 352nd Fighter Group
- ●79th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group
- ★Parts to allow depiction of retracted or deployed undercarriage are included.
- ★A set of photo-etched parts is included to depict details such as seat harnesses and the oil cooler.
- ★A 16 page full-color photographic reference manual is also included.

Comes with standing and seated pilot figures.



Ailerons, flaps, elevators, and rudder are all movable.

3 types of sliding canopies and 4 types of rearview mirrors included.

You can select either early- or late-type tails. Parts for fabric- and metal-covered elevators are also included.

Parts for 75- and 108-gallon drop tanks are included.

Laminar wing profile has been reproduced based on actual design drawings.

1/32 SCALE

Dorsal Fin
473304
《Late-Type》
Metal-Covered

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The first six Grumman TBF-1 Avengers to enter combat fought at the Battle of Midway. Phillip Gore's basic conversion tells of the only one to survive the fight that turned the tide in the Pacific.

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FineScale Modeler (ISSN 0277-979X, USPS No. 679-590) is published monthly (except for June & August) by Kalmbach Publishing Co., 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187. Periodicals Postage is paid at Waukesha, WI and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to FineScale Modeler, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612. Canada Post Publication Mail Agreement #40010760.

Editor's Page

By Matthew Usher

To collect or not to collect?

THE SUBJECT OF kit collecting can be a tricky subject among modelers. I think most of us buy models because we want to build them, and end up with "collections" only when we start buying kits faster than we finish building them. We'll get to every one of them given enough time.

I'm on both sides of the fence, admittedly. I love building models, but I do have a big shelf of older unbuilt kits in my workshop. Most of them are from manufacturers that are long out of business: Hawk, Aurora, UPC, and Hobby-Time, to name a few. Most of the kits are aircraft, and if you've been reading *FineScale Modeler* for a while now, you've probably seen most of my collection a piece at a time as "Kit Classics" subjects.

WHY WOULD I WASTE VALUABLE SHELF SPACE ON OLD UNBUILT KITS?

Why would I waste valuable shelf space on old unbuilt kits? Well, first and foremost, not for the money. Almost all of the kits are old, but none is particularly rare or valuable. I'm sure I have less than $10 invested in each one. I'm certain I'm not going to build a retirement home with them or make a big splash on "Antiques Roadshow" any time soon.

One of the biggest attractions for me is the box art. They're all from the era when kit boxes were covered with fantastic illustrations by artists like Mort Künstler, who we profile on page 24 of this issue.

And I love what's inside the boxes, too. Sure, kits from the 1950s and '60s are usually toylike, with simple construction and decidedly un-scale operating features. But opening up one of my old kits and sorting through the bright plastic parts always makes me appreciate how good today's kits are, and how far the hobby has come in the past decades.

And every now and then I'll open up one of those boxes and build the old kit inside. Every kit in my house is likely to be built at some point, regardless of its age. I'm a model builder first, after all.

MATTHEW USHER

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GENERAL

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Would you like to share an idea about a tool or technique — and make a few dollars too? Send a brief description along with a photograph or sketch to "Reader Tips" (mail address at left; please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of photos. E-mail tips@finescale.com or visit FineScale.com and click on "Contact Us." Tips are paid for upon publication; if you live in the U.S., we'll need your Social Security number to pay you. *FSM* obtains all publication rights (including electronic rights) to the text and images upon payment.

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Postmaster: Periodicals postage paid at Waukesha, Wisconsin, and additional offices. Send address changes to *FineScale Modeler*, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S., 10 issues, $39.95; 20 issues, $74.95; 30 issues, $106.95. Canada, 10 issues, US$47.95; 20 issues, US$87.95; 30 issues, US$126.95. International, 10 issues, US$51.95; 20 issues, US$98.95; 30 issues, US$142.95. Canadian price includes GST (Canada Publication Mail Agreement #40010760, BN 12271 3209 RT). **Expedited Delivery Service:** Domestic First Class, add $20/yr.; Canadian Air, add US$20/yr.; International Air, add US$45/yr.

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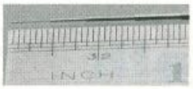

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Scale Talk

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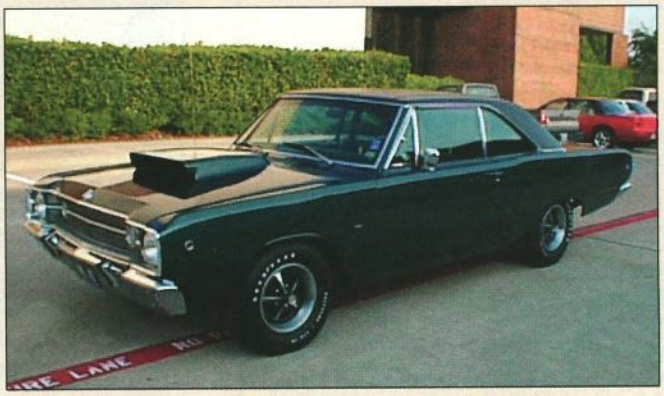
Cruisin' around

My dad worked at North American Aviation when I was growing up, and once in a while he'd pack up the kids and take us to see one of his favorite places: the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. Since most of my modeling is aviation-related, I try to visit as often as I can.

When I lived in Arlington, Texas, the Johnson Space Center near Houston was the place for me. Not too far from there is the Battleship *Texas* historic site in the San Jacinto state park. Both can be seen in a day if you rush. I have also been to the USS *Alabama* Battleship Park in Mobile, Ala., and north of there is the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. Another great destination for just about anyone can be the air shows all around the country. The last one I visited was the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wis.



Driving around in his '68 Dodge Dart gives Steve the need for modeling.

For us car fans, another fun thing to do for modeling inspiration is to just cruise around. I had a restored '68 Dodge Dart that I drove in Texas. It was a real head-turner, and we hit lots of car shows.

– Steve Koziatek
Elkhart, Ind.

Modeling destinations

In the July 2011 issue, Editor Matthew Usher asked where your favorite modeling destinations were. Here's what you had to say about your favorite places to see the aircraft, ships, armor, cars, and other things that inspire you.

Israel's museums

I received my copy of the latest *FineScale Modeler* yesterday in the mail, one of life's pleasures for me here in Israel. I envy Matthew Usher's stop at the Udvar-Hazy Center. I grew up in the Washington, D.C., area and spent a lot of time in the museums. Sadly, I haven't been back in a long time.

Israel is a military modeler's paradise. There are many museums here, some famous and some almost unknown, that cover almost every niche of the hobby. Because our country is about the size of New Jersey, it doesn't take a lot of time behind the wheel to get to any of them.

Everyone knows about the Latrun Armored Corps Museum (just a short drive from my home), but not many know that on Israel's Independence Day they bring in special displays of current Israel Defense Forces armor and other military ground equipment that can make for some great reference material.

For the ship modeler, there is the Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum in Haifa, which has a walk-through display of a retired sub, a guided-missile destroyer, and a lot of captured boats and equipment.

For the aircraft guys, there is the Israeli Air Force Museum in Beersheba, a can't-miss attraction with its large display of aircraft and many captured weapons systems and radars

The lesser-known museums on my list are the Israel Defense Forces Museum of the Artillery in Zikhron Ya'akov, and the Israel Defense Forces History Museum, located between Tel Aviv and Jaffa. I could spend hours walking around these museums and filling memory cards.

I haven't touched on the many memorials and displays that cover the country. One day I'd like to make a map showing all of them so other modelers can enjoy them as much as I do.

– Robert Goldman
Kfar Saba, Israel

Three stops in one trip

I had the opportunity to hit a three-for-one bonanza a few years ago while on a business trip to the Tucson, Ariz., area.

I worked in the F-16 Falcon program office at the Ogden Air Logistics Center on the Hill Air Force Base in Utah. While managing an off-site conference for the program, we were given a tour of the Air Force Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, a joint services facility managed by the U.S. Air Force Material Command. We saw row after row of every imaginable type of aircraft (4,200 at last count) as we drove through the facility. The second nearby attraction was the Pima Air & Space Museum. The museum is filled with hundreds of vintage aircraft. Finally, just south of Tucson is the Titan Missile Museum. My first active-duty assignment in the U.S. Air Force was as a Strategic Air Command Titan II missile combat crew commander in the 308th Strategic Missile Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. I

(continued)

Let us know what you think!

E-mail your comments, suggestions, corrections, and additional views on *FSM* to editor@FineScale.com, or visit FineScale.com and click on "Contribute to *FSM*." You can also mail typed or hand-printed letters to the address on Page 6.

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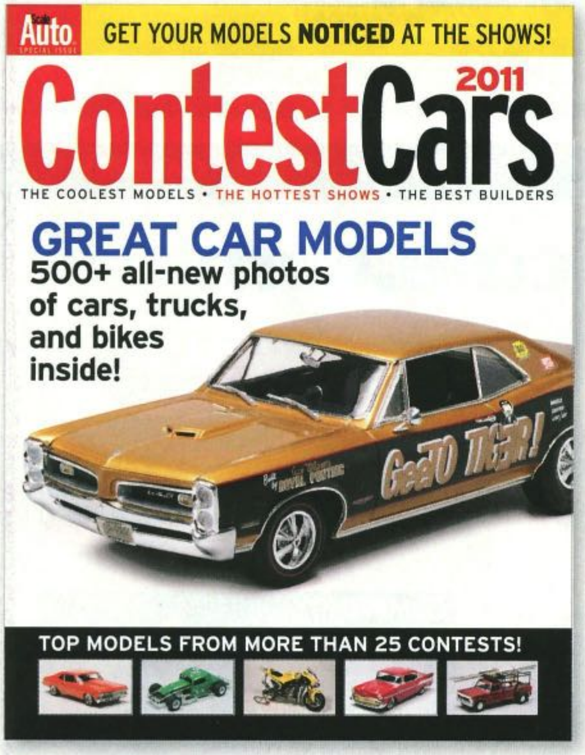

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Scale Auto MAGAZINE

P13153

A1AFW

had not been in a Titan II launch control center for more than 40 years. As I walked down the stairs into the subterranean chamber, a chill went up my back. Back when I worked on the Titan II, I pulled 24-hour alert shifts at the tender age of 23. In the end, my three-for-one tour landed me with hundreds of reference photos I brought home to assist my modeling initiatives.

– Michael A. Spehar
North Ogden, Utah

Up close and personal

By far my favorite modeling-related destination is the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, England. I have been lucky enough to get to England on a regular basis and have been to Duxford about four times. My first trip was in the 1990s, when you could walk right up to the aircraft (even those undergoing restoration) and take pictures right there. We got up close to a Spitfire and I was able to shoot pictures of the cockpit! Things have changed and visitors can't do that anymore. But the collection and restoration work going on there is still terrific.

Closer to home, I recommend the Flying Heritage Collection in Everett, Wash. There are some beauties there, and the docents are extremely knowledgeable and friendly.

– Mark Cravens
Palo Alto, Calif.

Ships from childhood

I've always enjoyed going to the Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, S.C., to see the USS *Yorktown*. I grew up near there and loved watching the ship come in to Charleston to be turned in to a museum. What made it even more special was the smell of the ship and the rustic feel as I walked through the ship's bowels and up to the flight deck. Seeing the old airplanes gave me a sense of being there in the moment. Same holds true for the USS *Midway* Museum in San Diego.

– Tim Powell
Bishop, Ga.

Family history

There are a couple modeling destinations I have gone to that have inspired me. I have been to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, a couple of times. The second time I was there, in the summer of 2007, I took a trip with my dad and mom to the Patton Museum of Cavalry & Armor in Fort Knox, Ky.

This was an important trip for to me. The time I got to spend with my dad was priceless, as he died a year later. I got to see where he was stationed before heading off to Vietnam. It was neat to see the tanks through the years and the model of Fort Knox from the movie "Goldfinger."

– James Dickey II
Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Correction

Due to a technical problem, part of the bow of the USS *Sacramento* was left out of the photo on Page 64 of the September 2011 issue of *FSM*.

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ONLINE EXTRAS

Rusting up an old Impala
In the July 2011 *FSM*, Karl Logan models a junker after a car he found at a racetrack near his hometown. Read more about his techniques for adding snow and making the model's base.

FineScale Modeler
Charlie Scardon built Dragon's 1/350 scale light carrier USS Independence. See it and 15 other new kits built for Workbench Reviews in the July 2011 FSM.

Desktop wallpaper
Download an image of Charlie Scardon's USS *Independence*, built and reviewed in the July 2011 *FSM*.

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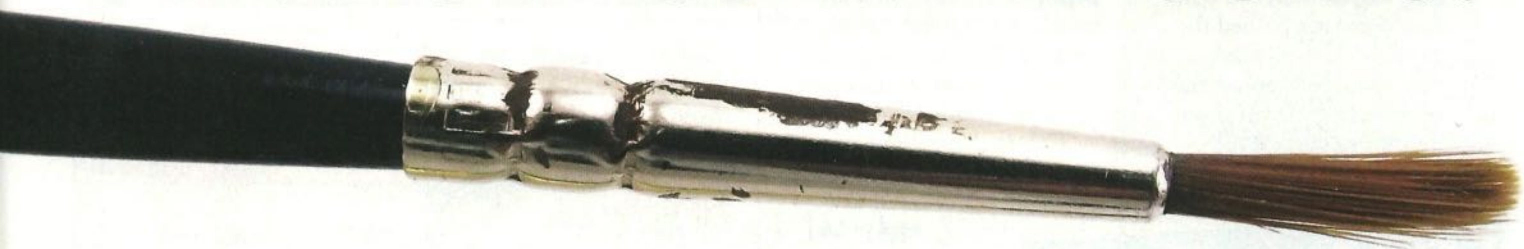

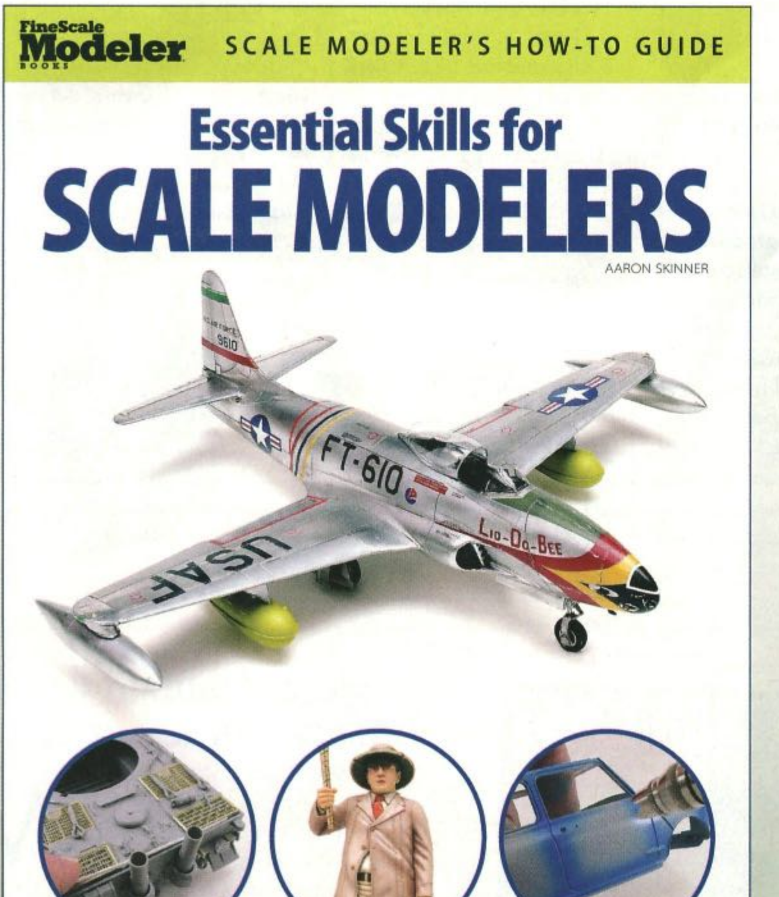

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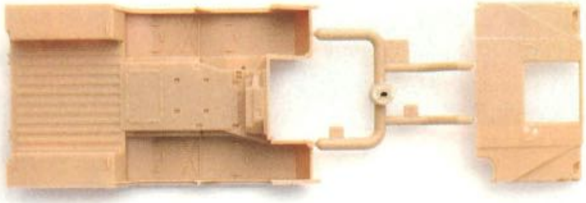
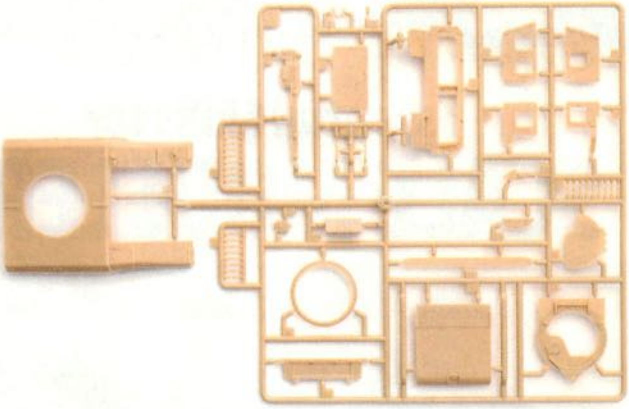
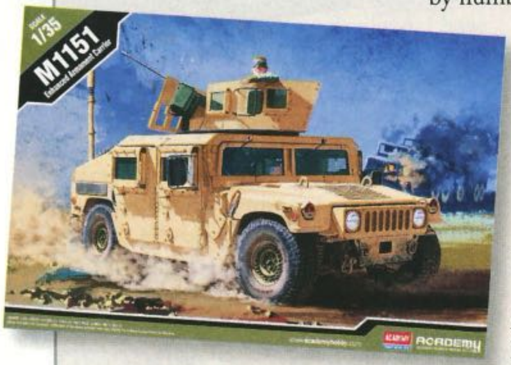
Compiled by Aaron Skinner

Academy adds M1151 to growing Humvee kit list







Experiences in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars have pushed the HMMWV in all kinds of directions. New armor and heavy turrets are the most prominent changes.

For years, the only way to model one of these up-armored Humvees in 1/35 scale was by drastically converting Tamiya's M1025 armament carrier.

Bronco Models has produced two versions of the M1114 Humvee, and now Academy joins the fray with a 1/35 scale M1151 Enhanced Armament Carrier (kit No. 13415), the most up-to-date incarnation of the ubiquitous military vehicle.

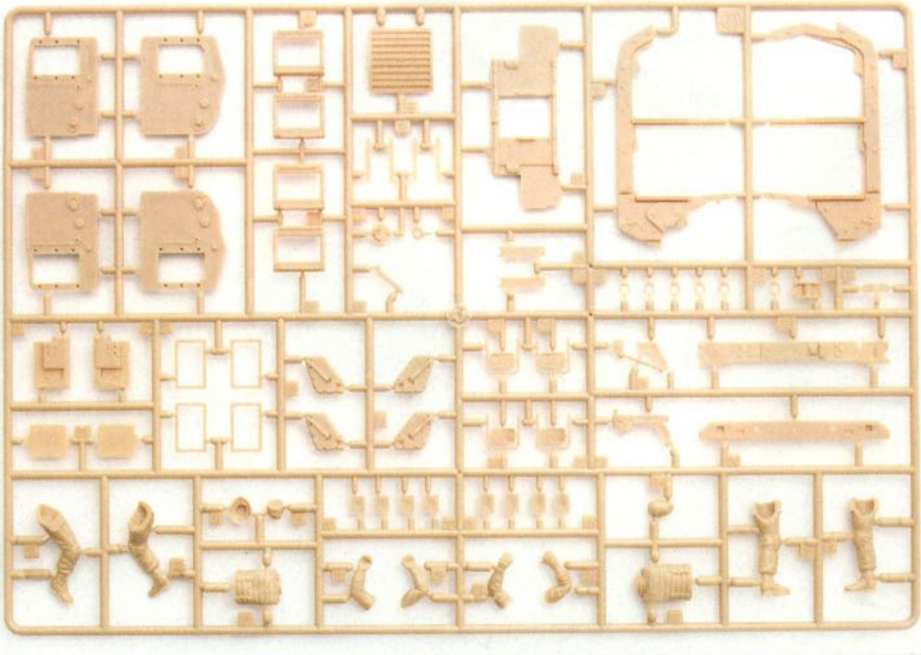
The model includes the heavy armored doors with detail inside and out, including the framed ballistic-glass windows. The turret has ballistic-glass blocks in the sides and gun shield, and the model has a detailed interior with current communications equipment as well as a driver and gunner. The suspension is complete, but the model is a curbside vehicle — no engine.

Molded in tan plastic, the parts have sharp detail, with crisp panel lines and tidy bolt heads. Bagged separately, the tires are molded in hard, black plastic halves. A small photoetched-metal fret provides vents, shelves, and hinges for doors that can be posed open, as can the rear hatch.

Color callouts throughout the instructions are referenced by numbers and keyed to a chart with Gunze Sangyo, Life Color, Humbrol, and Testors paints. Decals provide markings for two desert-sand and one NATO-camouflaged Humvee.

All in all, Academy's M1151 looks like it'll produce a good model straight from the box and provide a sound foundation for superdetailers and diorama builders.

Distributed in the United States by Model Rectifier Corp. the kit costs $43.



Tamiya reboots Sherman

Ten years since releasing its last Sherman, Tamiya comes along with an interesting variant of the American medium tank. It's the Israeli M1, and there are lots of new parts in the box. The upper hull, turret, gun, and crew are all newly tooled. There are even plates to fill the sponsons! The lower hull and suspension are taken from Tamiya's previous Sherman.

TAMIYA
1/35ミリタリーミニチュアシリーズNO.322
イスラエル軍戦車
M1スーパーシャーマン
M1 SUPER SHERMAN
1/35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.322 ISRAELI TANK M1 SUPER SHERMAN

Decals provide markings for two 1956 Sinai Campaign tanks as well as an M1 seen at Israel's armor museum.

Imported in the United States by Tamiya America, 949-362-2240, www.tamiyausa.com, the kit costs $55.

New paints and pigments from ModelMakerZ

I remember a time when there were only a few paint brands to choose from. Nowadays, we're spoiled by such a wide selection — and there are new companies springing up all the time.

One of the newest is ModelMakerZ, based in the U.S, with acrylic paints matched to armor and aircraft for German, Israeli, British, and Russian subjects, as well as custom colors for cars. ModelMakerZ owner Chris Bryan says the paints need to be sprayed over a coat of primer.

IDF Modern
Acrylic Paint
1.4 oz
Modern Russian
Acrylic Paint
1.4 oz
Fixative/Thinner
www.ModelMakerZ.com
Pigment Powder

ModelMakerZ also has an extensive catalog of pigment powders, referred to by the type of weathering (rust, ash, etc.) or by geography (Southeast Asian mud, European dirt, etc.). The pigments are finely ground and work with ModelMakerZ's own fixative as well as water or alcohol to create different weathering techniques.

The paints come in 1.4-ounce eyedropper bottles for $4. The pigments, packed in .5-ounce jars with screw-top bottles, cost $5 each.

For more information and to order, visit www.modelmakerz.net.

Revell relaunches big-scale space shuttle stack

With the end of NASA's space shuttle program, it's timely for Revell to reissue Monogram's 1/72 scale shuttle kit with external tank and boosters (kit No. 5089). This model has rarely seen the light of day in the last 25 years.

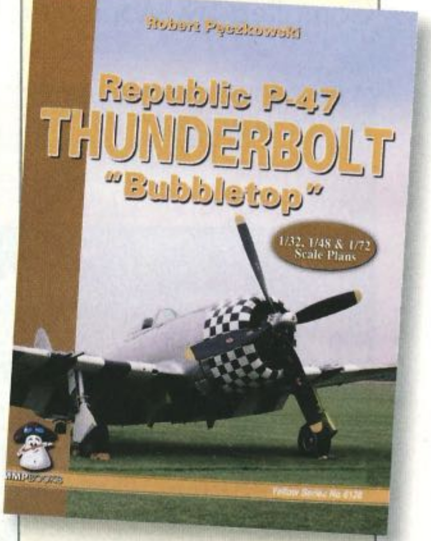
The kit includes all of the parts and plumbing for the tank and the solid rocket boosters. The orbiter has cockpit details, optional landing gear, and a cargo bay with opening doors and a variety of payload options, including Spacelab, a telescope, a biomedical satellite, and a communication satellite. There are also two astronauts.

SPACE SHUTTLE
WITH FUEL TANK & BOOSTERS
12+
1:72
MONOGRAM
1 PLASTIC KIT / 1 TROUSSE EN PLASTICO / 1 JUEGO PLASTICO

Decals provide markings for all six shuttles, spanning the vehicle's service of more than 30 years.

The shuttle kit costs $99.95.

BOOKSHELF


Robert Pęczkowski
Republic P-47
THUNDERBOLT
"Bubbletop"
1/32, 1/48 & 1/72 Scale Plans
MMPBOOKS

Need P-47 info?

If you are looking for a good reference on later-model P-47, it's be hard to beat Robert Peczkowski's *Republic P-47 Thunderbolt "Bubbletop"* (Mushroom Model Publications, ISBN 978-83-61421-27-6).

The softcover, 160-page book is broken into three sections. The first details differences between variants, from the P-47D-25-RE and P-47D-26-RA through the YP-47M to the P-47N-25 and F-47D and N. The description includes 1/72 scale drawings; 1/48 and 1/32 scale plans are included separately.

The second part gives details of the airframes, with walkaround images broken into sections: fuselage, wing, canopy, cockpit, tail, engine, undercarriage, and armament.

The book ends with 28 pages of color profiles of Thunderbolts wearing the insignia of many nations. Several of the profiles are accompanied by photos of the airplanes illustrated.

A terrific reference for anyone building a P-47, the book is available from Casemate, 610-853-9131, www.casematepublishers.com, for $27.

New Products

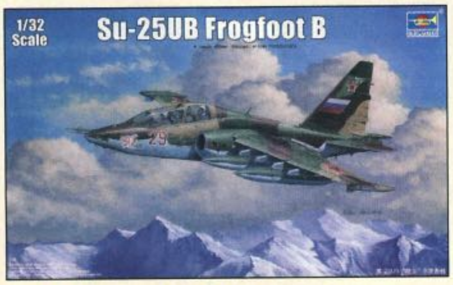
Compiled by Monica Freitag

AIRCRAFT

1/32 SCALE KITS

North American P-51D MUSTANG
TAMIYA

P-51D Mustang, No. 60322, $168. Aircraft Series No. 22. Bonus A4-sized folder included. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From Tamiya.


1/32 Scale
Su-25UB Frogfoot B

Su-25UB "Frogfoot-B" Russian trainer, No. 2277, $195.95. From Trumpeter, available from Stevens International.

F-84E Thunderjet
FS-687
HobbyBoss
1:32 SCALE
AGES 14 +

F-84E Thunderjet, No. 83207, $86.99. Decals and color painting reference for 2 USAF aircraft, includes stencil data and markings for instrument panel and weapons. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From HobbyBoss, available from Squadron Products

1/32 DETAIL SETS

P-47D Thunderbolt horizontal stabilizer and elevator assemblies (for Hasegawa), No. 32028, $15.95. From Master Details.

1/32 DECAL SETS

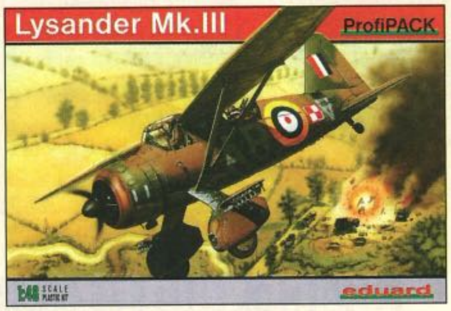
Gisi
Gisi
3
3

Albatros D.Va "Wooden Wonders," No. 30018, $19. From Wingnut Wings.

1/48 SCALE KITS

1/48
TOMAHAWK IIb
"Ace of African Front"
ACADEMY

Tomahawk IIb "Ace of African Front," No. 12235, $29. From Academy, available from Model Rectifier Corporation.


Lysander Mk.III
ProfiPACK
1:48 SCALE
eduard

Lysander Mk.III, No. 8290, $44.95. ProfiPack. From Eduard and Associates.

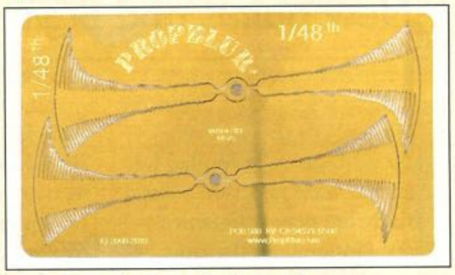
MiG-21 SMT
ProfiPACK
1:48 SCALE
eduard

MiG-21SMT, No. 8233, $59.95. ProfiPack. From Eduard and Associates.

P-47N THUNDERBOLT
Revell
1:48
1 PLASTIC KIT/1 TROUSSE EN PLASTICO/1 JUEGO PLÁSTICO

P-47N Thunderbolt, No. 85-5314, $22.95. From Revell.

1/48 DETAIL SETS


PROPBLUR
1/48th

Propeller blade on hub version, No. 48OH2B2U, $5.99. Prop-Blur. Gives airplane models look of propellers in motion. Also available in 1/72 scale 72OH2B2U, $4.99. From Amerricana Miniature Products.

MiG-21MF/SMT exhaust nozzle, No. 648-027, $19.95. Brassin line. From Eduard and Associates.

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MiG-21MF accessories (for Eduard), No. 48703, $26.95; **MiG-21 ladder (for Eduard),** No. 48704, $19.95. From Eduard and Associates.

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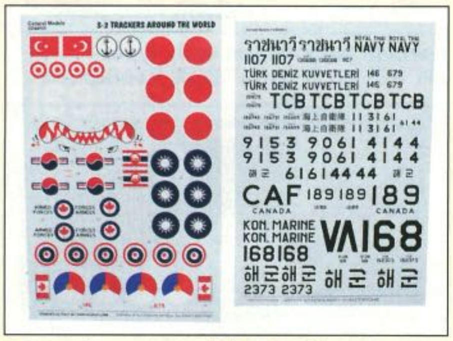
Fw 190 landing gear (for Eduard), No. 48137, $16.95; **Mirage F.1 landing gear (for Italeri/ESCI),** No. 48138, $16.95; **SB2C Helldiver landing gear (for Revell, Italeri),** No. 48139, $14.95; **F-15 landing gear (for Academy),** No. 48140, $16.95; **P-39/P-400 landing gear (for Eduard),** No. 48141, $16.95. From Scale Aircraft Conversions.

1/48 DECAL SETS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NAVY NAVY
1107 1107
TÜRK DENIZ KUVVETLERI
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9153 9061 4144
61614444
CAF 189 189 189
CANADA
KON. MARINE
VA168
168168
해군 해군 해군 해군
2373 2373

S-2 Trackers Around the World, No. CD48005, $15.99. From Caracal Models.

1/72 SCALE KITS

ZVEZDA
7284
GERMAN BOMBER / TORPEDO BOMBER
Junkers Ju-88 A-5/A-17
Юнкерс Ju-88 A-5/A-17
НЕМЕЦКИЙ БОМБАРДИРОВЩИК / ТОРПЕДОНОСЕЦ
1/72

Junkers Ju 88A-5/A-17 German bomber/torpedo bomber, No. 7284, $28.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

F6F-5N Hellcat Night Fighter
cyber-hobby.com

F6F-5N Hellcat night fighter, No. 5080, $29.95. Golden Wings Series. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From Cyber-hobby, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

B-52B with X-15
Experimental Aircraft
1:72
U.S. AIR FORCE

B-52B with X-15 experimental aircraft, No. 85-5716, $69.95. B-52B can be modeled with its landing gear down or retracted. Set includes decals with authentic U.S. Air Force and NASA markings. From Monogram, available from Revell.

AIRFIX
1:72 VICKERS VALIANT BK.Mk.1

Vickers Valiant, No. A11001, $64. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From Airfix.

Manufacturer Directory

Aero Research
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www.AeroResearchCDs.com

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www.airfix.com

Americana Miniature Products
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Elmira, CA 95625-0604
www.propblur.com

Andrea Depot USA Inc.
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Corpus Christi, TX 78417
361-334-1625
www.andreadepotusa.com

Caracal Models
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Austin, TX 78709
www.caracalmodels.com

Dragon Models USA Inc.
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City of Industry, CA 91745
626-968-0322
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Obrnice 170
435 21, Czech Republic
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www.tamiyausa.com

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New Zealand 6022
www.wingnutwings.com

Zenith Press
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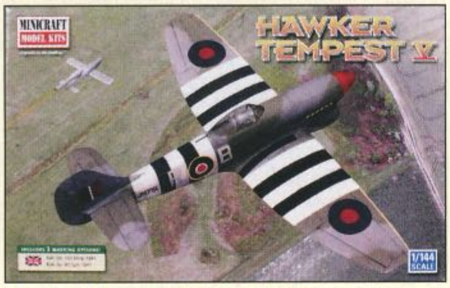
Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-344-8100
www.zenithpress.com

New Products

1/72 DETAIL SETS

F-105 landing gear (for Trumpeter), No. 72034, $14.95. From Scale Aircraft Conversions.

1/144 SCALE KITS


MINICRAFT MODEL KITS
HAWKER TEMPEST V
1/144 SCALE

Hawker Tempest V, No. 14646, $10.99. From Minicraft Models Inc.

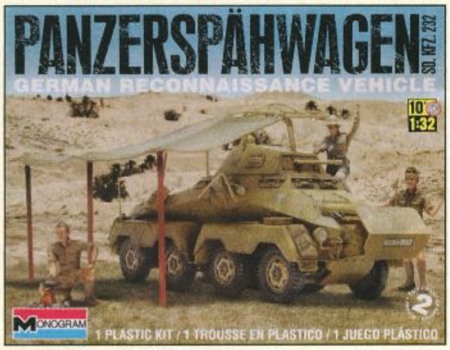
1/200 SCALE KITS

MINICRAFT MODEL KITS
1/200 SCALE
Hughes H-4 Hercules
"Spruce Goose"

Hughes H-4 Hercules "Spruce Goose," No. 11657, $24.99. From Minicraft Models Inc.

ARMOR

1/32 SCALE KITS


PANZERSPÄHWAGEN
SD. KFZ. 232
GERMAN RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE
10+
1:32
MONOGRAM
1 PLASTIC KIT / 1 TROUSSE EN PLASTICO / 1 JUEGO PLÁSTICO

Panzerspahwagen SdKfz 232, No. 85-7856, $22.95. From Monogram, available from Revell.

1/35 SCALE KITS

M1151 enhanced armament carrier, No. 13415, $43. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From Academy, available from Model Rectifier Corporation.

TAMIYA
FINNISH ARMY ASSAULT GUN BT-42
BT42

BT-42 Finnish army assault gun, No. 35318, $70. From Tamiya America, Inc.

6×4 TRUCK KRUPP PROTZE (Kfz.70)
PERSONNEL CARRIER
TAMIYA

6x4 truck Krupp Protze (Kfz.70), No. 35317, $35. From Tamiya America, Inc.

German
Sd.Kfz.6/2 3.7cm Flak 37 auf Selbstfahrlafette

German SdKfz 6/2 halftrack with 3.7cm Flak 37 self-propelled gun, No. 5532, $61.95. New variant with new tooling. From Trumpeter, available from Stevens International.

TAMIYA
M1 SUPER SHERMAN

M1 Super Sherman Israeli tank, No. 35322, $55. From Tamiya America, Inc.

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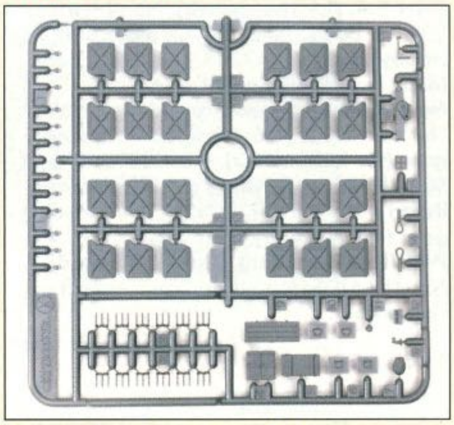
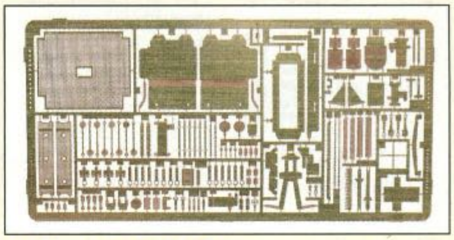
FineScale Modeler magazine receives new products from a variety of manufacturers on a daily basis and we are now able to share all of them with you through our interactive exclusive FSM product database. Click on the Product News link at www.FineScale.com.

1/35 DETAIL SETS



German jerry can set early type, No. 35315, $7. From Tamiya America, Inc.



Leopard 1A5 (for Italeri), No. 36159, $29.95. From Eduard and Associates.

1/48 SCALE KITS

TAMIYA
ITALERI
1/48
GERMAN 88mm GUN FLAK37
"SIEGE OF TOBRUK"

German 88mm gun FlaK 37, No. 37009, $50. From Tamiya America, Inc.

1/72 SCALE KITS

ВЕЛИКАЯ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННАЯ WWII
GERMAN 81-MM MORTAR WITH CREW 1939-42
ZVEZDA
1/72
SNAP FIT NO GLUE REQUIRED
НЕМЕЦКИЙ 81-ММ МИНОМЕТ С РАСЧЕТОМ 1939-42

German 81mm mortar with crew 1939-1942, No. 6111, $4.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

ВЕЛИКАЯ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННАЯ WWII
SOVIET 82-MM MORTAR WITH CREW 1941-43
ZVEZDA
1/72
СОВЕТСКИЙ 82-ММ МИНОМЕТ С РАСЧЕТОМ 1941-43

Soviet 82mm mortar with crew 1941-1943, No. 6109, $4.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

1/100 SCALE KITS

ВЕЛИКАЯ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННАЯ WWII
SOVIET TRUCK ZIS-5
ZVEZDA
1/100
СОВЕТСКИЙ ГРУЗОВИК ЗИС-5

Soviet truck ZiS-5, No. 6124, $4.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

ВЕЛИКАЯ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННАЯ WWII
GERMAN TRUCK OPELBLITZ 1937-1944
ZVEZDA
1/100
НЕМЕЦКИЙ ГРУЗОВИК 1937-1944 ОПЕЛЬ БЛИЦ

German truck Opel Blitz 1937-1944, No. 6126, $4.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

A description of our new-product announcement and review policies is available from Product News Coordinator, FSM, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187, 262-796-8776, fax 262-796-1383, or e-mail at newproducts@finescale.com. *FineScale Modeler* is not responsible for content of external sites linked through our site. Visit our website at www.FineScale.com.

ВЕЛИКАЯ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННАЯ WWII
SOVIET HEAVY TANK KV-1 mod. 1940
ZVEZDA
1/100
СОВЕТСКИЙ ТЯЖЕЛЙ ТАНК КВ-1 обр. 1940 г.

Soviet heavy tank KV-1 mod. 1940, No. 6141, $4.95. From Zvezda, available from Dragon Models USA Inc.

SHIPS

1/350 SCALE KITS

Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate
USS REUBEN JAMES FFG-57
Special Edition
ACADEMY

USS *Reuben James* FFG-57, No. 14106, $55. Look for a detailed review in an upcoming issue of *FSM*. From Academy, available from Model Rectifier Corporation.

1/700 SCALE KITS

1/700 SCALE
AOE Fast Combat Support Ship
USS Detroit AOE-4

USS *Detroit* AOE-4 *Sacramento*-class fast combat support ship, No. 5786, $37.95. New variant with new tooling. From Trumpeter, available from Stevens International.

FIGURES

54MM SCALE KITS

G.A. Custer 1875, 7th Cavalry 1876, No. S14-F02, $33. From Andrea Miniatures, available from Andrea Depot USA Inc.

Gabriel Blackburn, Serpentia Commando, Dark Nova, No. DN-02, $39.79. From Andrea Miniatures, available from Andrea Depot USA Inc.

1/35 SCALE KITS

MILITARY MINIATURES
1/35 SCALE WWII GERMAN AFRICA CORPS INFANTRY SET
TAMIYA

WWII German Afrika Korps infantry set, No. 35314, $19.50. From Tamiya America, Inc.

MILITARY MINIATURES
1/35 SCALE WWII GERMAN FIELD MILITARY POLICE SET
TAMIYA

WWII German field military police set, No. 35320, $20. From Tamiya America, Inc.

REAL SPACE

1/72 SCALE KITS

SPACE SHUTTLE
WITH FUEL TANK & BOOSTERS
12+ 1:72
MONOGRAM
1 PLASTIC KIT / 1 TROUSSE EN PLASTICO / 1 JUEGO PLASTICO

Space shuttle with fuel tank and booster, No. 85-5089, $99.93. Decal markings for all six space shuttles (*Enterprise, Columbia, Discovery, Endeavor, Challenger* and *Atlantis*). From Monogram, available from Revell.

ARA Press
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One-Stop Data Shop!

New!

2010: A Scrapbook Odyssey
by Jean-Marc Deschamps

- 90 pages on 80# coated stock
- 9" x 12", Softcover, Perfectbound
- 280 photos and tables
- Interview with lead model maker, Mark Stetson

A detailed examination of filming models from the movie *2010: The Year We Make Contact*. Author Jean-Marc Deschamps was given access to the models as they were being restored for auction. He took hundreds of photos of them which, when combined with period photos of the movie's production, form a complete record of the models from this film.

Only $19.95! (plus shipping)

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Rocket Science
by Dave Ketchledge

- CD book on two discs, PDF Format (text) plus executable files
- 920 pages
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Lots of books claim to be "rocket science" but this is the real deal.

In its 920 pages, Dave Ketchledge covers vehicle basics (nozzle thermodynamics, aerodynamics), performance basics (flight mechanics, orbital mechanics) and applications with an eye to the hobby (HP rocket design, guidance systems, payloads and telemetry, radio control).

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New Products

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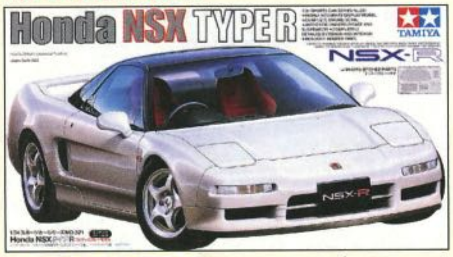
1/32 DETAIL SETS

Viper Mk.VII photoetched cockpit (for Moebius Models), No. PGX144, $29.95. From ParaGrafix Modeling Systems.

AUTOS

1/24 SCALE KITS


Honda NSX TYPE R
TAMIYA
NSX-R

Honda NSX Type R, No. 24321, $46. From Tamiya America, Inc.

1/25 SCALE KITS

'62 Chevy Impala SS
Hardtop 2'n1
California WHEELS
10 1:25
Revell
1 PLASTIC KIT / 1 TROUSSE EN PLASTICO / 1 JUEGO PLÁSTICO

1962 Chevy Impala SS, No. 85-4281, $24.94. From Revell.

MISCELLANEOUS

1/35 SCALE KITS

MiniArt
EUROPEAN CART
35553
BUILDINGS & ACCESSORIES SERIES
1:35

European cart, No. 35553, $31. From MiniArt, available from Model Rectifier Corporation.

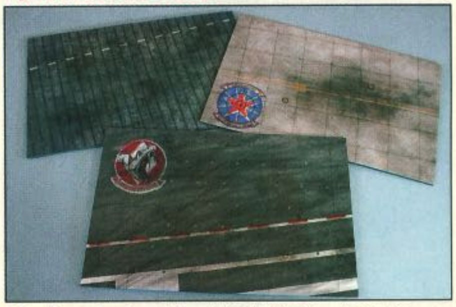
Goods shed, No. 35554, $55. From MiniArt, available from Model Rectifier Corporation.

1/35 DETAIL SETS

City blocks (short), No. 384, $16.50; **Ladders,** No. 401, $8.50. From Plus Model.

Grapevine, No. 36170, $26.95; **Ivy-berry,** No. 36161, $26.95; **Sunflowers,** No. 36168, $26.95. From Eduard and Associates.

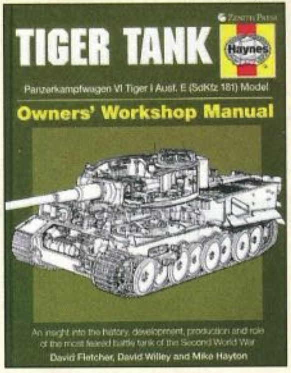
1/48 DETAIL SETS



Display decks, No. MO480101, $20.99. Ready out of the box, detailed surfaces. Also available in 1/144, 1/72 and 1/48 scale. From 3Wire Design.

BOOKSHELF

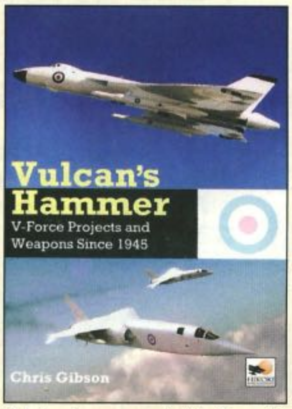
Silent Killers, $24.95, by James P. Delgado, hard cover, 264 pages, few color photos, mostly black-and-white photos, ISBN: 978-1-84908-365-2. From Osprey Publishing.


TIGER TANK
Haynes
Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger I Ausf. E (SdKfz 181) Model
Owners' Workshop Manual
David Fletcher, David Willey and Mike Hayton

Tiger Tank – Panzerkampfwagen VI – Tiger Ausf E (SdKfz 181) Owner's Workshop Manual, $28, by David Fletcher, hard cover, 160 pages, 200 color photos, ISBN: 978-0-7603-4078-3. From Zenith Press.

The Seaplane Years
Tim Mason

The Seaplane Years, $56.95, by Tim Mason, hard cover, 272 pages, over 300 black-and-white photos, ISBN: 978-1-902109-13-8. From Hikoki Publications, available from Specialty Press.

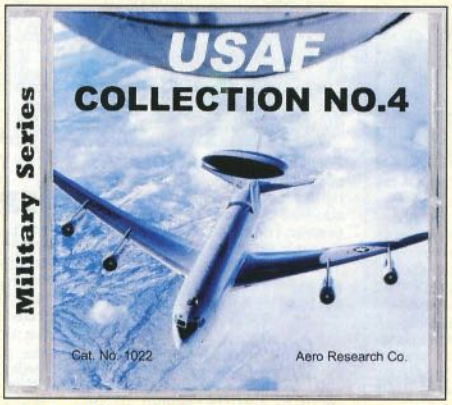


Vulcan's Hammer – V-force weapons projects since 1945, $49.95, by Chris Gibson, hard cover, 176 pages, 200 photos and drawings, black-and-white photos, ISBN: 978-1-902109-17-6. From Hikoki Publications, available from Specialty Press.

Soviet and Russian Testbed Aircraft
Yefim Gordon & Dmitriy Komissarov

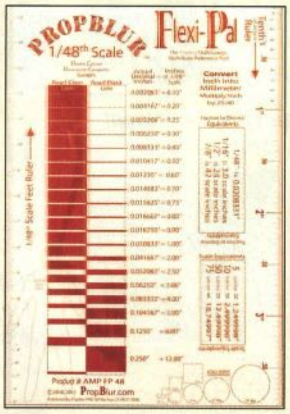
Soviet and Russian Testbed Aircraft, $56.95, by Chris Gibson, hard cover, 320 pages, 50-100 color photos, 600 black-and-white photos, ISBN: 978-1-902109-18-3. From Hikoki Publications available from Specialty Press.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA



USAF Collection No. 4, No. 1022, $12.95. From Aero Research Co.

TOOLS



Flexi-Pal multi-gauge, multi-rule reference tool, No. AMP-FP48, $3.95. Also available in 1/72 scale AMP-FP72 and 1/144 AMP-FP144. From Americana Miniature Products.

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Downdraft-style Spray Booth has a powerful, brushless exhaust fan which draws paint overspray from inside the durable metal hood and passes it through a three-stage filter, then vents the cleaned air outside the work area through a 4" diameter exhaust port. The clear window which forms the top of the hood lets room light in. All metal construction. Includes filters. 15" deep x 20" long x 12" high. Overall height: 21". 110v AC. Hood requires a few minutes of assembly.

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List $449.95 **SALE $269.95**

Keep Your Airbrush Within Easy Reach and Out of Harm's Way

Airbrush holder provides safe, secure storage for all airbrush brands...up to 4 at a time! Rubber-coated head tilts and rotates to hold airbrush at the perfect angle for filling paint cups. Clamps to work surfaces up to 2-1/4" thick.

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Toolmaker-grade micro punch set makes perfect miniature disks from plastic, wood veneer, cloth – even metal! And it punches tiny holes in materials virtually impossible to drill: thin metal sheet, cork, rubber, vinyl, and more. Use it on pre-printed paper gauge-faces and clear acetate sheet to create the most realistic miniature instrument panels you've ever seen.

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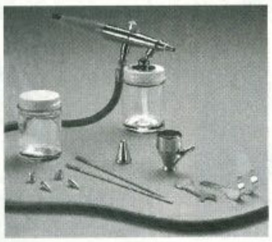
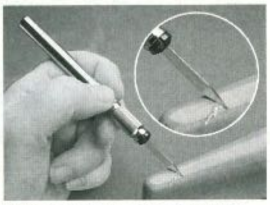
The Paasche Airbrush... The Professionals' Choice



This double-action, internal mix airbrush is extremely well balanced, with a heft and feel unlike any other we've tried. Complete set includes three nozzles and tips for spraying widths from 1/32 to 1-1/2 inches wide, braided air hose, 1/4 oz. color cup and 1 oz. bottle assembly, 1 oz. paint storage bottle with cap, wrench, airbrush holder, instructions and lesson book.

#84126
List $115.00 **SALE $81.95**

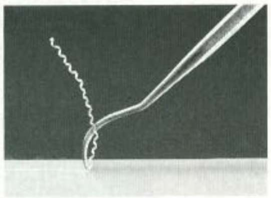
Precision Scraper Makes Seam Lines Invisible



Our Seam Scraper smooths glue seams, removes parting lines and eliminates flash better and more cleanly than any other tool. Also deburrs aluminum, brass and other soft metals.

#80801
List $18.65 **SALE $10.85**

Our Panel Scriber Does It Better



Unlike other scribers, ours removes a fine strip of plastic to make panel lines that are sharper, cleaner and more realistic. Double-ended for double life.

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List $21.40 **SALE $12.25**

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#80806
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Soft-Touch Polishing Pads Make Scale Paint Jobs Shine

A Micro-Mark **Exclusive!**

Foam pads covered with Micro-Mesh polishing abrasives apply just the right amount of pressure to buff surfaces to a deep, brilliant shine... even on contours and edges. Set of 6 double-sided pads: 2400, 3200, 4000, 6000, 8000 and 12000 grit.

#81601
List $8.95 **SALE $7.95**

Cordless Mixer for Model Paints

Mixes paint in-the-bottle for consistent color every time. Just insert the spin disk and push the button. To clean, spin in a bottle of thinner. Even mixes old, settled paint. Handles bottle depth up to 3". Uses 2 AA batteries (not incl.).

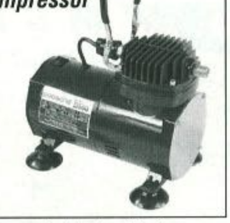
#80975
List $9.95 **SALE $2.95**

Filter Funnels Prevent Airbrush Clogging

Miniature solvent-resistant paint funnels have stainless-steel strainers that trap the clumps and bumps that clog airbrush nozzles and siphon tubes. Includes 3 reusable funnels: one each with medium, fine and extra-fine mesh strainers.

#83119
List $15.95 **SALE $14.15**

Paasche Portable, Lightweight Compressor



An economical, but well-built compressor for the serious hobbyist or artist. Oil-less, maintenance-free, diaphragm-type construction runs smoothly and quietly. Runs only when the airbrush trigger is depressed. Motor: 1/8 hp., 120v AC. Six foot cord; body-mounted on/off switch. Rated air flow: 0.4 cfm at 20 psi. Delivers 20 to 40 psi depending on airbrush being used.

#84127
List $131.00 **SALE $99.95**

Make Your Own High-Quality Photo-Etched Parts!

A Micro-Mark **Exclusive!**

Pro-Etch is a true photo-resist metal etching system that uses your computer, an ink jet printer, and the materials included in the system to achieve incredibly fine results. Includes all the materials shown in the picture except for the model car.

Note: Contains caustic chemicals. Careful handling and good ventilation are required. Not for use with aluminum.

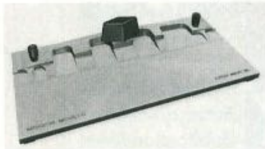
#83123
List $155.95 **SALE $107.95**

The Best Way to Cut Photo-Etched Parts

Xuron Professional ET Scissor cuts through tiny photo-etched parts cleanly and precisely with a delicate shearing action. Produces a neat, square edge without distorting adjacent parts.

#84903
List $23.99 **SALE $19.95**

Etch Mate 3C Transforms Flat Photo-Etched Parts into Complex 3D Objects



Etch Mate 3C precisely folds, bends and shapes photo-etched flat parts every time. Accommodates photo-etch sheets up to 6-1/2" long.

#83682
List $59.95 **SALE $44.95**

SAME STUFF...Liquid Plastic Welder Formulated for the Plastic Modeler

Exactly the same as ProWeld and Tenax-7R, except for the name!

Includes Applicator!

Solvent-type cement welds styrene, acrylic, butyrate and ABS plastic. Set includes 4 oz. of SAME STUFF plus the Touch-N-Flow applicator, which lets you precisely apply liquid plastic cement, glue or C/A accelerator.

#84131
List $17.23 **SALE $13.25**

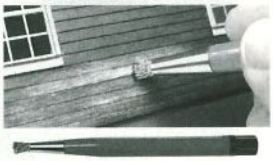
Doc O'Brien's Self Adhesive Weathering Powders

A Micro-Mark **Exclusive!**

Dust on Doc O'Brien's to simulate the effects of time and the elements... no overcoat required! They're also used as weathering washes when mixed with water. Kit contains enough powder to weather dozens of models. Instructions included. Twelve color set includes Dirty Brown, Mildew Green, Grimy Black, Gritty Yellow, Rusty Red, Faded Blue, Rusty Brown, Grungy Gray, Patina Green, Desert Sand, Highlight White and Muddy Red. Non-toxic.

#81632
List $19.95 **SALE $16.95**

The "Distresser" Adds a Realistic, Weatherbeaten Finish to Your Models



Distresser's steel bristles abrade the painted surface of wood models, creating the appearance of long-term exposure to the elements. Bristle length is adjustable just like the lead in a mechanical pencil...set it short for heavy weathering; long for light weathering.

#82466
List $14.15 **SALE $12.35**

Tweezer-Like Nipper Desprues the Tiniest Parts

For use on plastic sprues only.

Fine tips reach into the tightest areas and flush cut the plastic so that further clean-up is not required.

#82393
List $17.80 **SALE $15.25**

Rotating Paint Stands from Tamiya

Rotating paint stands provide precise finger-tip control while airbrushing, even within the confined area of your spray booth. Set of 2 turntables (4-1/2" and 6-1/2" dia. x 4-1/2" tall) includes various adjustable spring clips and molded-in features that hold parts singly or while attached to the sprue.

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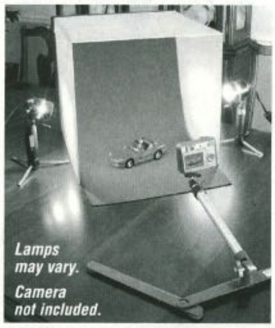

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Use the same materials and techniques that professionals use to build their models. Our silicone mold rubber and urethane casting resins faithfully reproduce even the most microscopic details, so you can be assured of getting exact duplicates of your most highly detailed patterns. And they're so easy to use, you can make perfect castings in as little as 15 minutes!

#82083 ONE-to-ONE/RAPID is an economical general purpose mold rubber that is easy to mix. 32 fl. oz.

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#84431
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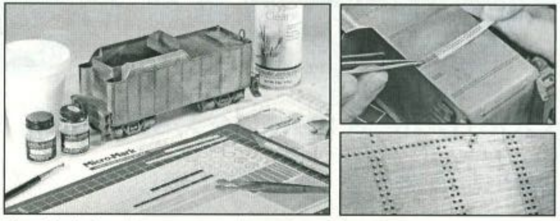
Add Raised (3D) Rivet Heads and Other Details to Any Surface...Easily, Quickly and Economically!



Micro-Mark, in a 4-year program, directed its engineering talents into producing yet another revolutionary model building technique: a way to apply these surface details quickly, easily and inexpensively. We've developed a way to produce scale size, raised rivet heads and other surface details, such as grillwork and louvers, realistically 3-dimensioned and contoured, on the surface of our blank decal paper. To add this detail to your model, simply cut out and apply like any other decal...it's that easy! Apply under or over paint to produce the exact effect you desire. Apply to plastic, wood, metal or any other surfaces...up and over curved surfaces as well as in the flat. Apply to model railroad equipment sides, ends, floors and roofs. Apply to military models, model buildings, bridges, watercraft and airplanes. Figure modelers can use our surface details as buttons and other details. The decals can be shifted during application for precise location, or, if you wish to make a change, simply clean them from the surface of the model and start again. They're also economical...each package contains over 118 square inches (two large decal sheets) of several different rivet patterns in both straight lines and curves, plus bonus louvers and grillwork. Although described as for O or HO scale (typically for model railroad use), they are useful across various scales for the type and size of surface details needed for your model.

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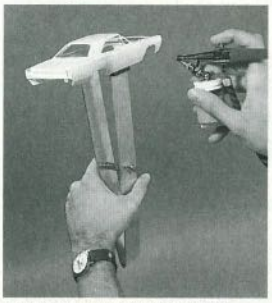

Adjustable spring tension holds models gently yet securely without distortion. The soft, no-slip jaw pads grip from the inside so you can paint the entire model by rotating the handle. 12" long handle keeps your hands away from overspray when airbrushing. Made of aluminum and steel with neoprene rubber jaw pads.

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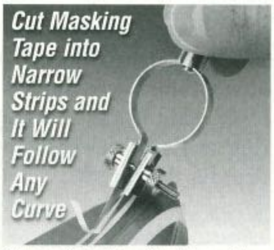

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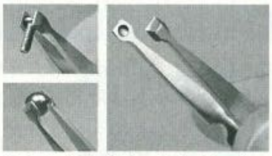

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**Pressure Sensitive Adhesive*

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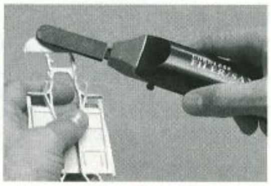
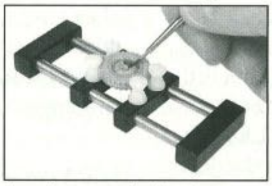


This cordless power sander will save you hours of tedious hand sanding and filing of small, intricate parts. Sanding wands and micro-size needle files snap-fit over the reciprocating head allowing you to change grits and file shapes in seconds. Works great on plastic, wood, metal and most other materials.

#81065
List $91.85 **SALE $68.95**

Get a Grip on Fine Detailing



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Setting the scene

Combine a simple base with a well-weathered model for a great result

• BY AARON SKINNER

When Chris Ludwick built Dragon's 1/35 scale Jagdtiger, he wanted to display it on a simple base that would demonstrate the vehicle's size and role. To set his plan in motion, he articulated the big tank destroyer's suspension during construction. Then he built groundwork to match the tracks and road wheels.

With the tank still unpainted, Chris started the groundwork with a 9" x 10½" picture frame. The ground is 45-minute drywall mud (sometimes referred to as hot mud or quick-setting joint compound). "This is great stuff," he says.

He adds just enough water so the mix looks like thick mud, stirring with a putty knife, then applies it to the base, forming and shaping it with his fingers. Before it's completely dry, he textures the surface with a wet sponge. Then he presses the tank tracks as well as various debris into the mud. Chris says there are about 30 different parts in the pile including a bookshelf, clock, and wine bottles from Verlinden, as well as parts of a flak gun, ammunition boxes and crates, a tank wheel, and track links from Dragon. The street lamp was left over from a Miniart building. Rounding out the ruins are bits of balsa and resin bricks.

Before painting the vehicle, Chris chipped and scratched its armor with a motor tool, a method that takes a lot of practice, he says.

"I have two bits I like to use to make dents, nicks, and scratches," Chris says. "These are rounded metal heads, one small, and the other a little bit bigger." With the rotary tool set to the slowest speed, 5,000 rpm, he just barely touches the bit to the plastic.

"It doesn't take much, one or two seconds. I try to make scratches go along the side of the tank as if it had rolled past the side of a building and scraped its sides."

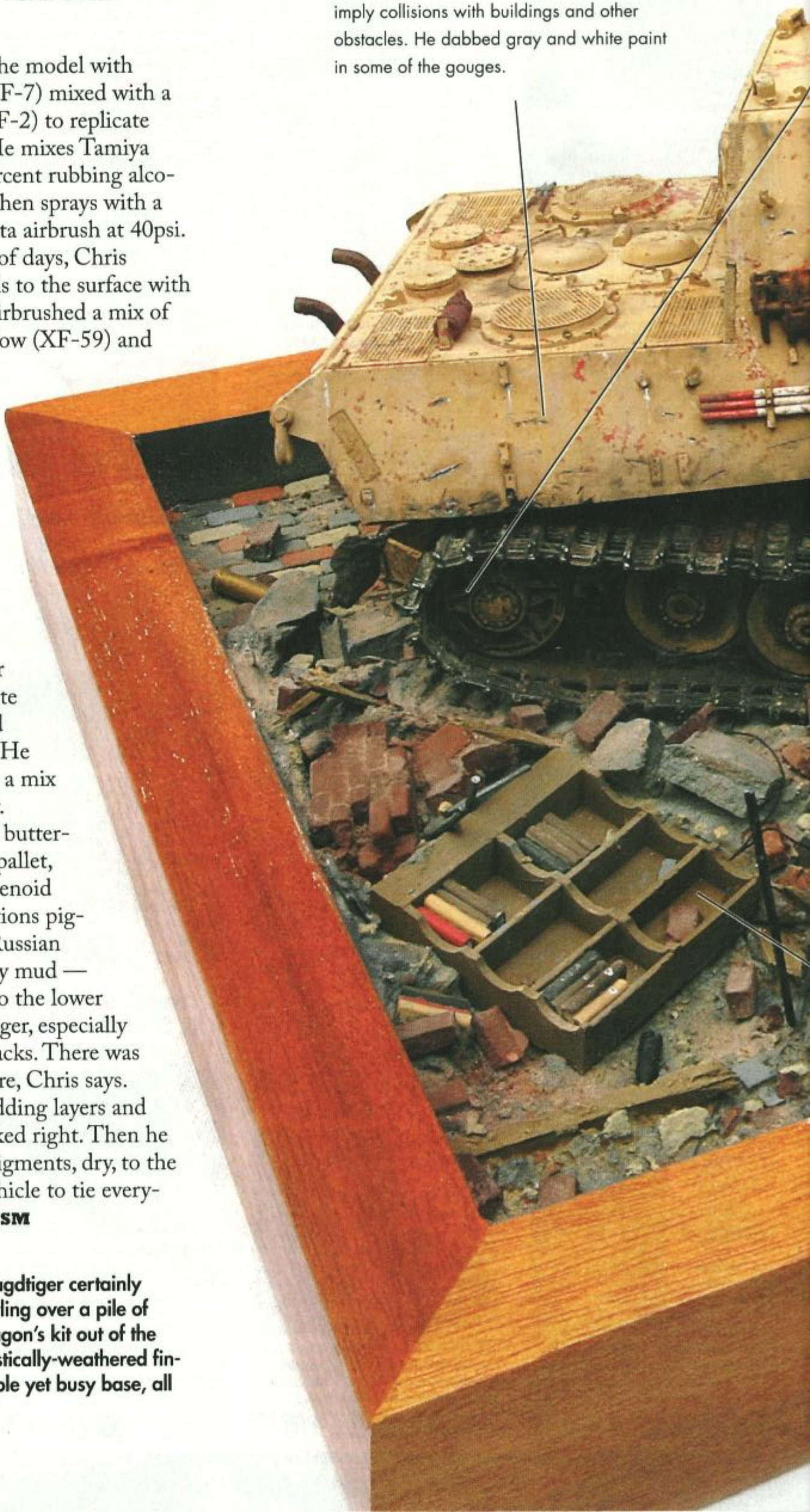
Chris primed the model with Tamiya flat red (XF-7) mixed with a little flat white (XF-2) to replicate German primer. He mixes Tamiya acrylics and 70 percent rubbing alcohol at a 1:1 ratio, then sprays with a double-action Iwata airbrush at 40psi.

After a couple of days, Chris applied salt crystals to the surface with Turpenoid, then airbrushed a mix of Tamiya desert yellow (XF-59) and white. When the camouflage color was dry, he scraped off the salt to chip the paint, revealing flecks of primer.

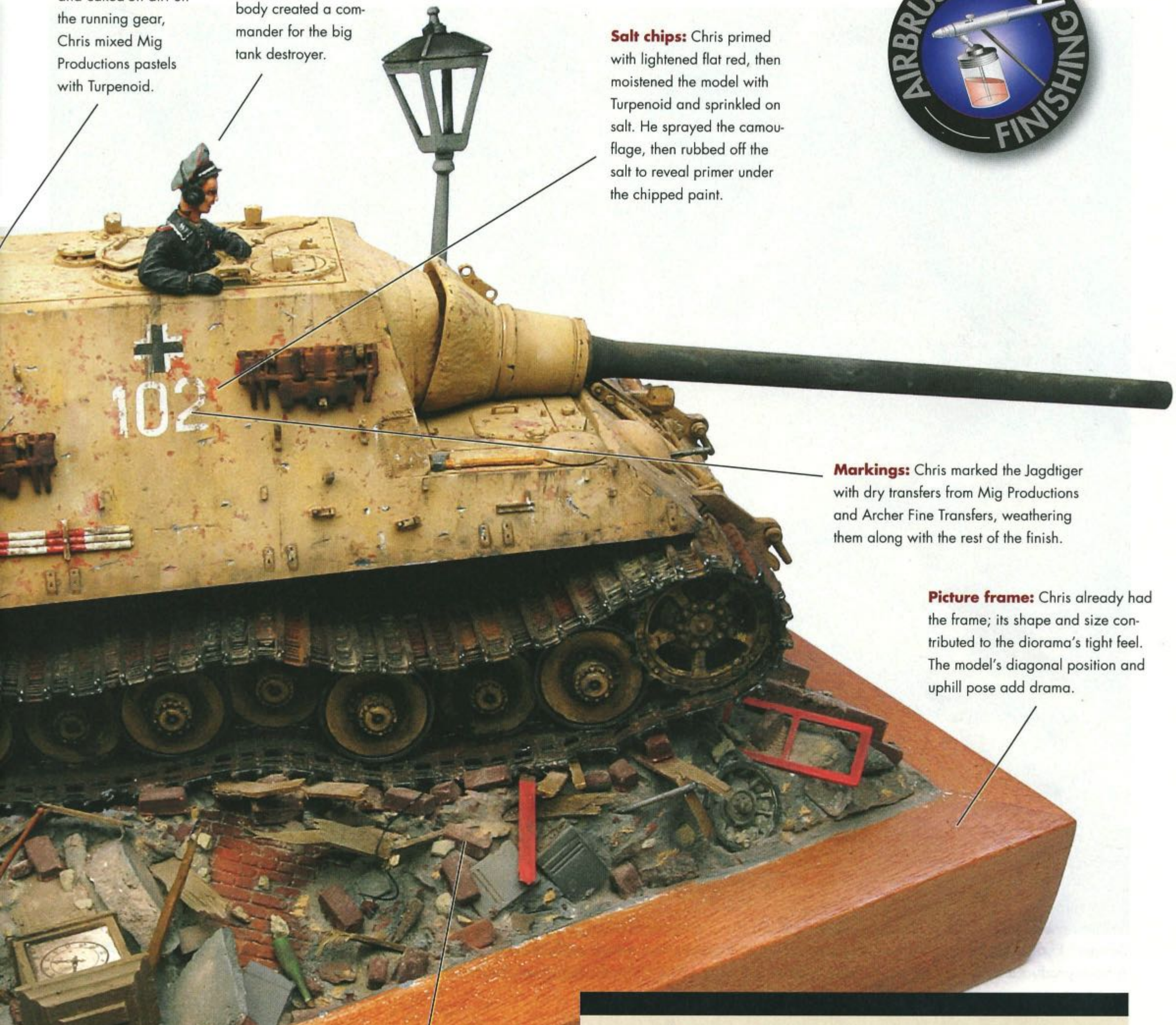
Chris applied a raw umber pin-wash to recesses, then accentuated dings in the armor with gray and white artist's oils applied with a fine brush. He painted the tracks a mix of black and silver.

Using a plastic butter-container lid as a pallet, Chris mixed Turpenoid with Mig Productions pigments — white, Russian earth, rust, and dry mud — and added them to the lower areas of the Jagdtiger, especially the wheels and tracks. There was no real pattern here, Chris says. Instead he kept adding layers and colors until it looked right. Then he added the same pigments, dry, to the upper hull and vehicle to tie everything together. **FSM**

Gouges and scratches: Chris damaged the Jagdtiger's hull with a motor tool, lightly skipping a round bit across the surface to imply collisions with buildings and other obstacles. He dabbed gray and white paint in some of the gouges.



Chris' 1/35 scale Jagdtiger certainly looks at home crawling over a pile of rubble. He built Dragon's kit out of the box, gave it a realistically-weathered finish, and built a simple yet busy base, all in a weekend.



Wet pastels: To create a layer of mud and caked-on dirt on the running gear, Chris mixed Mig Productions pastels with Turpenoid.

Commander: A Verlinden resin head grafted onto a Tamiya body created a commander for the big tank destroyer.

Salt chips: Chris primed with lightened flat red, then moistened the model with Turpenoid and sprinkled on salt. He sprayed the camouflage, then rubbed off the salt to reveal primer under the chipped paint.

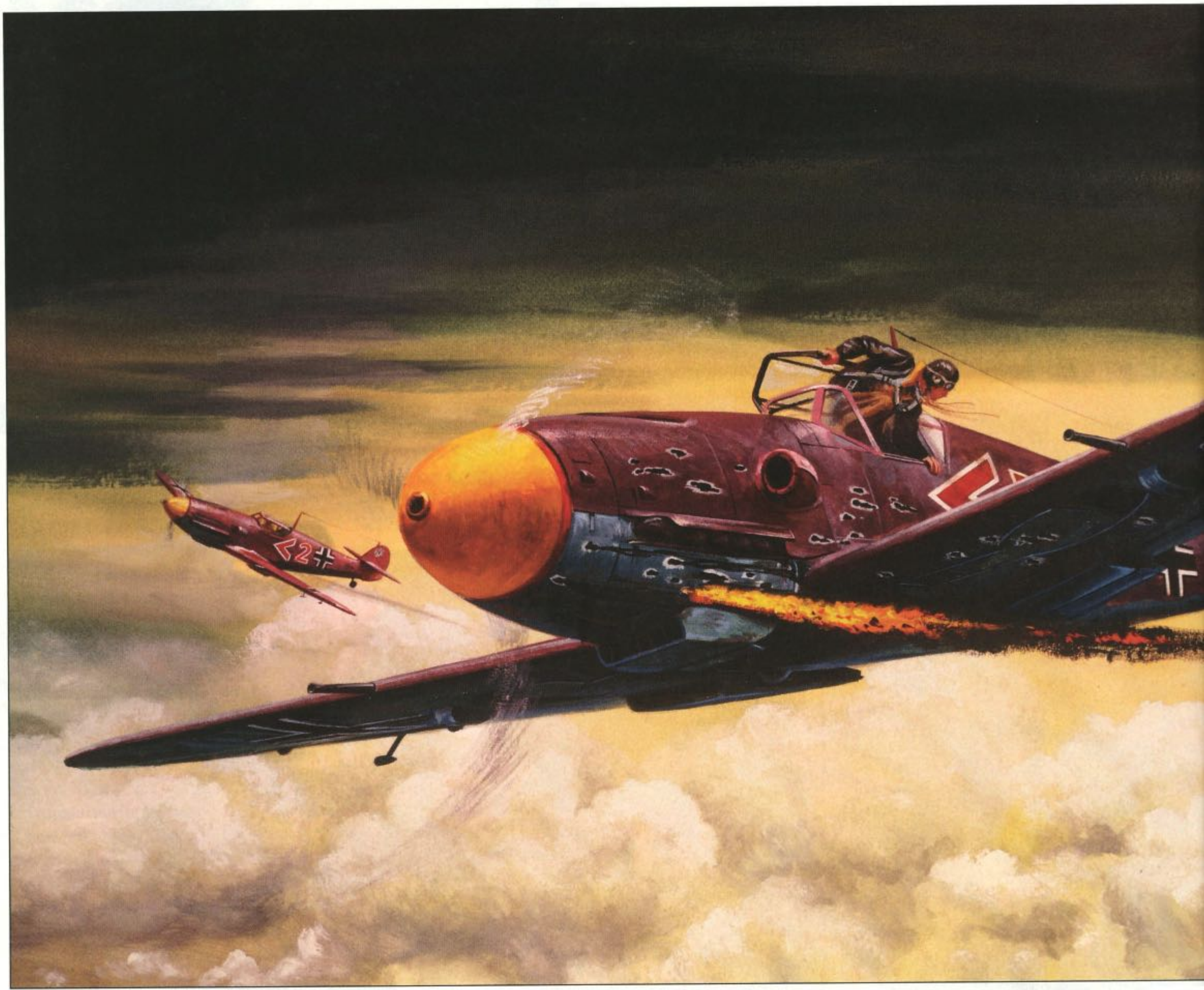
Markings: Chris marked the Jagdtiger with dry transfers from Mig Productions and Archer Fine Transfers, weathering them along with the rest of the finish.

Picture frame: Chris already had the frame; its shape and size contributed to the diorama's tight feel. The model's diagonal position and uphill pose add drama.

Debris: Chris pillaged his spares box and came up with 30 bits and pieces for rubble. In addition to Verlinden and Dragon parts, he used scraps of balsa and resin bricks.

Meet Chris Ludwick

"IT WAS A FATHER-AND-SON bonding thing, I guess," says Chris, 50, of his start in the hobby. When he was 10, his dad showed him how to build a 1/72 scale P-51. But it wasn't until he was 15 that Chris really got into it. He's been in and out of the hobby ever since. He builds almost anything from World War II, but has a fondness for German armored vehicles. He prefers to put them in dioramas, even if it's just a small base with groundwork. "I feel models are not complete unless they are in their natural setting," Chris says. "I never cared much for a tank on a table." Chris, a professional photographer, lives in McMinnville, Ore., with his wife, Danielle, and daughter, Skyler.



Danger? Excitement? It was the stuff of box art for Mort Künstler, who moved easily from pulp-fiction illustrations to Aurora packaging in the 1950s. Aurora produced its ¼" (1/48) scale Messerschmitt 109 from 1953-1974; the final cover art was Künstler's.

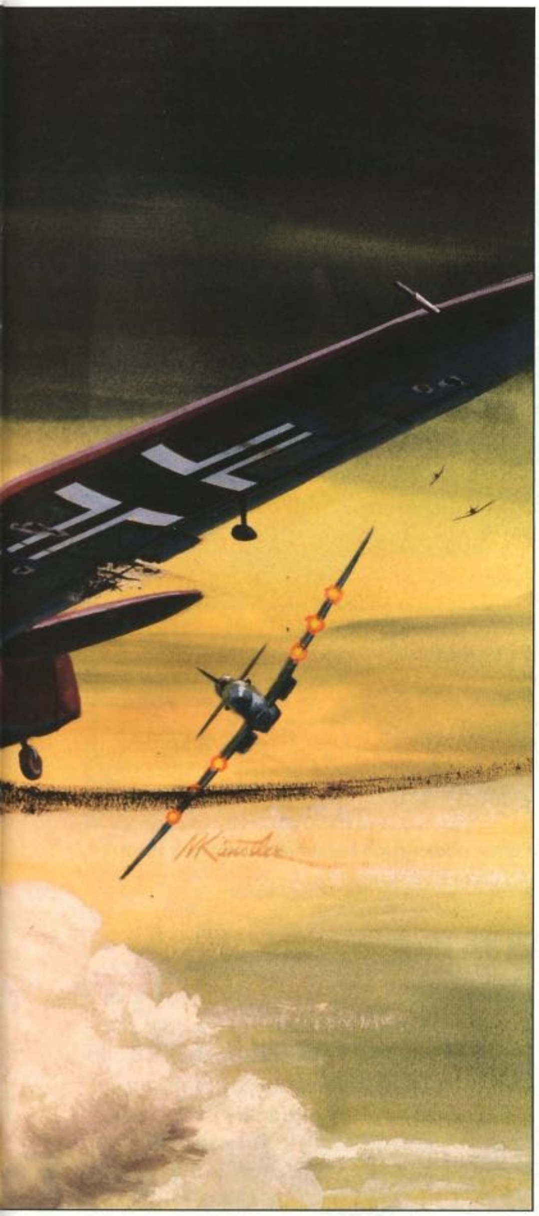
Mort Künstler: "America's Artist"

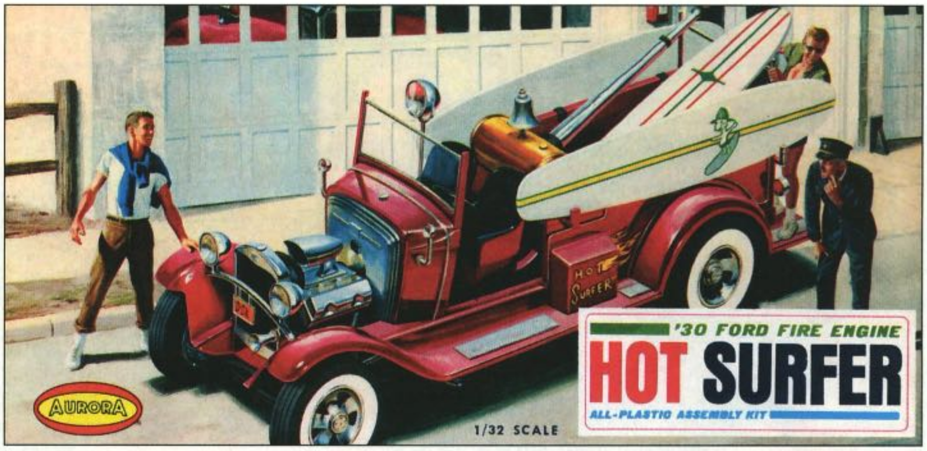
Everything from pulp fiction to fine art — and some of scale modeling's best-loved box tops

BY MARK HEMBREE

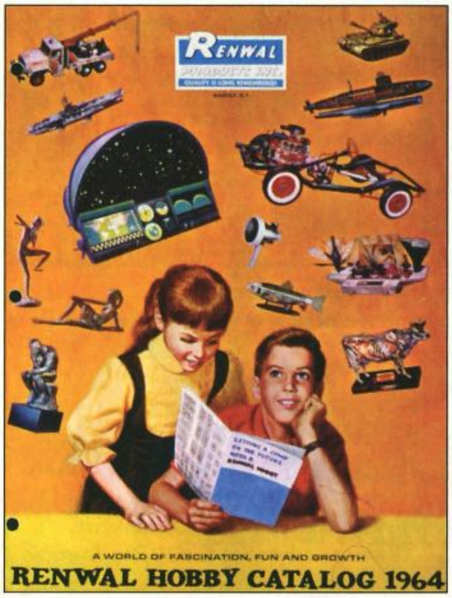
Despite being singled out at an early age for his artistic genius, like most boys, Mort Künstler and his buddies preferred movies without the mushy stuff — adventure films, shoot-'em-ups, anything with lots of action "as long as they didn't have girls in them," he says. "I didn't care too much for the romantic scenes."

He also liked the pulp-fiction books you could get for a dime. So, when he graduated from art school and found no professional position waiting for him — "I was pretty naive," he says of his expectations — he went through an apprenticeship, found a mentor, and learned that artists have to make their own breaks.

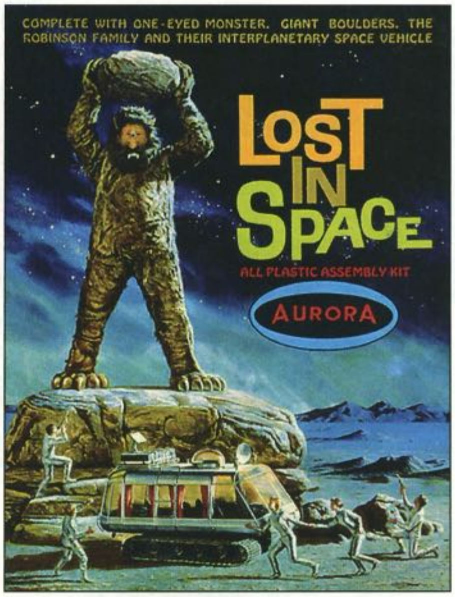



'30 FORD FIRE ENGINE
HOT SURFER
ALL-PLASTIC ASSEMBLY KIT
AURORA
1/32 SCALE

Creative meetings with Aurora's marketing people led to a narrative style for several whimsical hot rods, another popular topic for model builders in the '60s.


RENWAL
A WORLD OF FASCINATION, FUN AND GROWTH
RENWAL HOBBY CATALOG 1964

Many older modelers remember Renwal "visible" kits, although fewer will recall successfully completing them. No matter: Künstler's cover for the catalog portrayed a world full of possibilities.


COMPLETE WITH ONE-EYED MONSTER. GIANT BOULDERS. THE ROBINSON FAMILY AND THEIR INTERPLANETARY SPACE VEHICLE
LOST IN SPACE
ALL PLASTIC ASSEMBLY KIT
AURORA

Monsters and space exploration remained popular topics throught the '60s. Here, Künstler combines the two in box art for Aurora's "Lost in Space" kit.

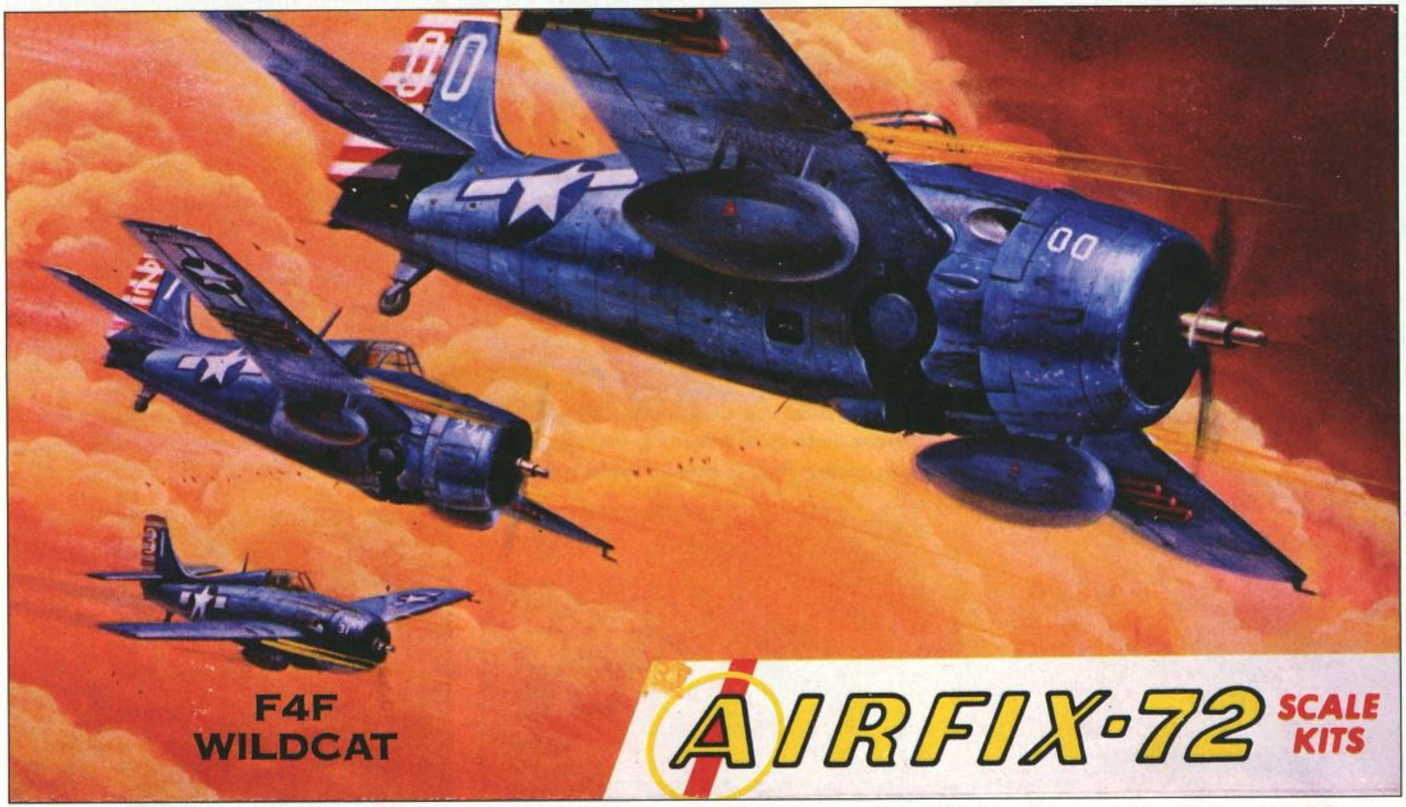
Timing, location, and a little luck don't hurt, either. In the early 1950s he was living on Long Island and doing feature and cover illustrations for men's magazines such as *Stag* and *For Men Only* when a printer who knew his work brought it to the attention of an important client, Aurora Models, based in West Hempstead, N.Y. The young company was trying to establish a brand image through packaging.

Künstler parlayed the opportunity into a substantial claim to scale modeling history, producing cover art for 70-75 Aurora kits. He doesn't recall the exact number, saying he produced so much so fast that he often didn't remember a piece until years later when someone would bring him a box to sign. His first works for Aurora were of aircraft, replacing plain-looking boxes with exciting, colorful packages showing the subjects in dramatic scenarios. Künstler worked from test shots of the model, photographing it from different angles to determine what poses would best bring the subject to life.

At a time when much of the model-kit industry was based on the East Coast, geography continued to play a part in Künstler's portfolio as he branched out to illustrating boxes for Renwal, another Long Island kit maker, and Airfix, the British manufacturer, with an office in Philadelphia. Künstler did a series of World War I aircraft boxes for Renwal, as well as the cover for the "Polaris Launching Nuclear Sub *Andrew Jackson*." Among his efforts for Airfix were a shark-toothed P-40 Warhawk and F4F Wildcat.

His eye for detail and ongoing need for references led to friendships in all branches of the military services. "Reference sources were much harder to find in those days," he says, noting the bounty of easily available photos and drawings of modeling subjects today.

The rapidly growing popularity of plastic kits in the 1950s led to a more formalized approach to choosing subjects and



"When you're standing there looking at them, these aircraft sort of loom at you," Künstler says. He would often photograph his subject and work from there. Most of the box art was rendered in watercolors.

packaging the product. Eventually, Künstler teamed with the Aurora art director Si Friedman on cover concepts, brainstorming scenes to put the model subject in action and add to its appeal. Illustrations for the first of Aurora's fantastically successful line of movie monsters — Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Phantom of the Opera — were done by a friend and colleague of Künstler's, James Bama. But the dark qualities from Künstler's pulp-fiction days served him well in illustrating Aurora's Monster Colors paint set as well as the box art of Aurora's "Forgotten Prisoner" figure.

The newfound appeal of figure kits spurred nonmonster offerings by Aurora, with Künstler's work appearing on boxes of sports figures such as Johnny Unitas and Jim Brown, as well as President John F. Kennedy and those men from U.N.C.L.E., Illya Kuryakin and Napoleon Solo.

The figures were more of a challenge for Künstler. Where he had been able to project an aircraft photo on a sheet and pencil it in, the figures took more time and effort. "The mechanical stuff was easy," he says.

Following closely behind the monster craze was a wave of top-selling hot rods, realistic and otherwise. Here, Künstler's talent in composing scenes in collaboration with Friedman led to entertaining box art for such kits as the Spyder, Moody Monster, Charger, and Old Ironsides.

With the advent of the 1970s, Aurora's falling fortunes and Künstler's burgeoning career sped off in opposite directions. While Aurora's plastic model business was gone before the end of the decade, Künstler's work was attracting a major-league roster of clients and projects coast to coast, from Hollywood movie posters to covers of *Newsweek* magazine.

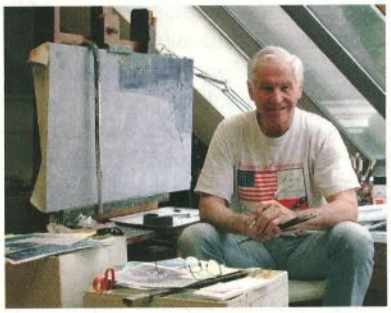
In 1965, an illustration project for *National Geographic* had sparked an interest in historical subjects (and more of the same kind of work from that magazine). Later, a project commemorating the Battle of Gettysburg proved to be the start of a fascination with the Civil War that has lasted more than three decades.

"Mort Künstler is the foremost Civil War artist of our time — if not of all time," says historian Dr. James I. Robertson Jr. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson adds, "None captures the human element, the aura of leadership, the sense of being there and sharing in the drama, quite like Mort Künstler."

At 79, he is still going strong. It's not surprising that a master of paints and inks would scoff at computers. But his staff has him on Facebook (he has more than 12,600 friends), and his website (www.mortkunstler.com) lists a busy itinerary of personal appearances, including lectures, awards presentations, and book signings.

And if you're into collectible model kits, who knows — you might even be able to get that vintage box autographed by the master himself. **FSM**

Get more of Mort



To see more of the artist's works as well as books and news, visit www.mortkunstler.com

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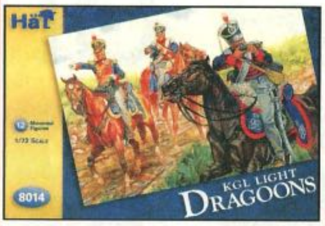

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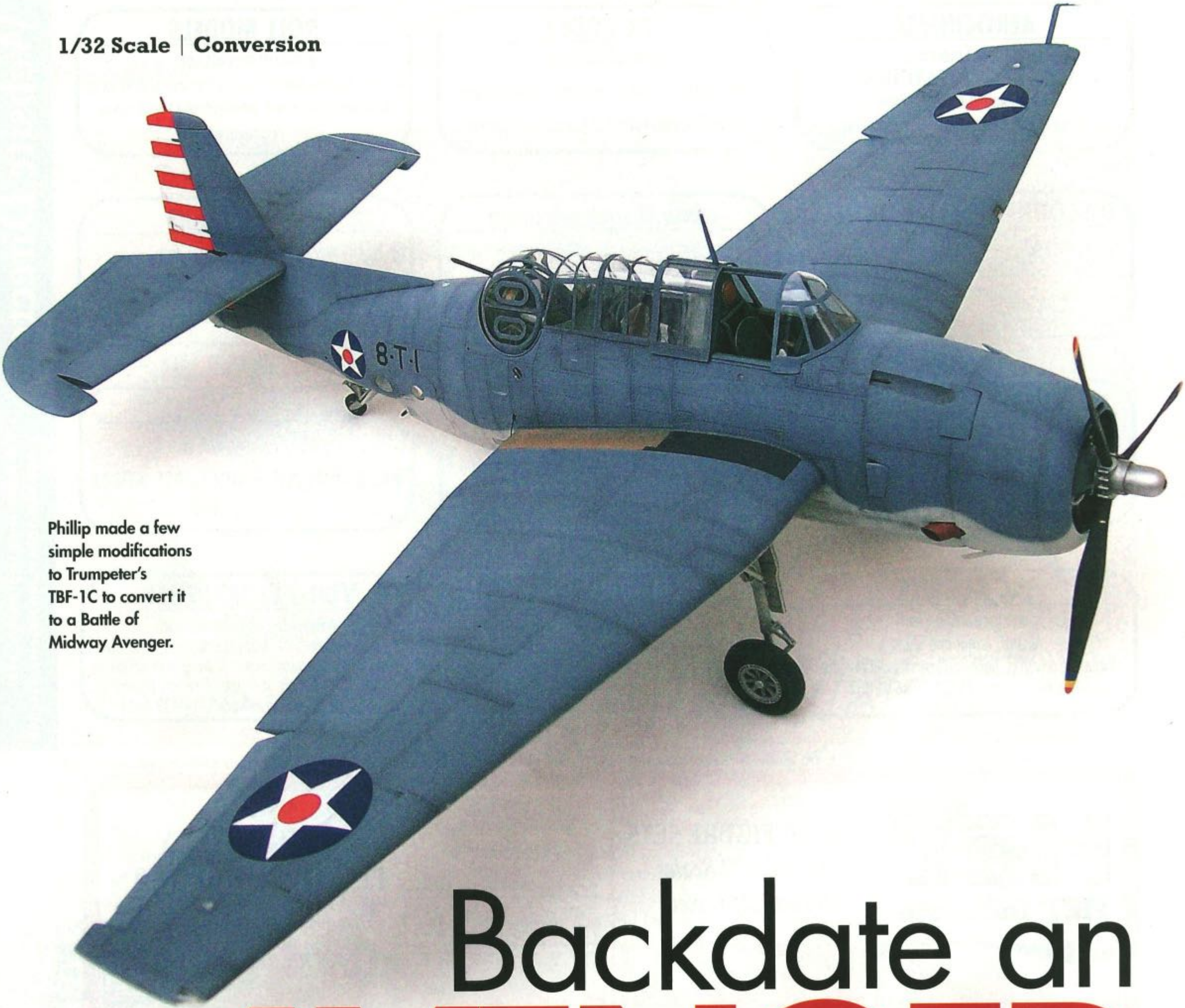


Phillip made a few simple modifications to Trumpeter's TBF-1C to convert it to a Battle of Midway Avenger.

Backdate an AVENGER

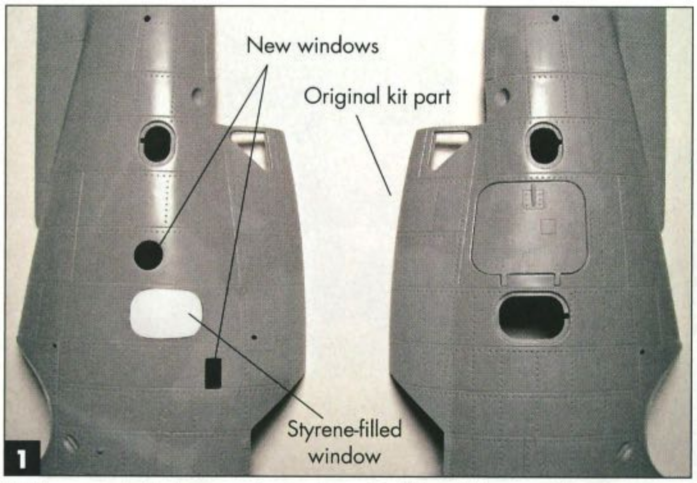
| COVER STORY |

Convert Trumpeter's big TBF-1C for the Battle of Midway

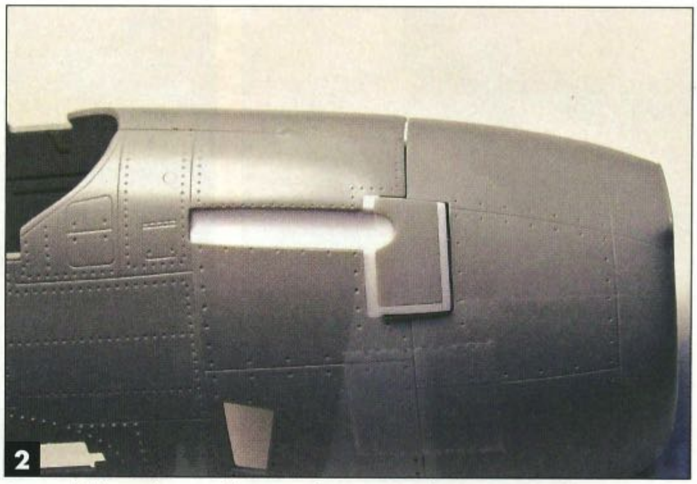
BY PHILLIP GORE

In May 1942, the U.S. Navy began beefing up Midway Island's defenses in anticipation of a battle with the Imperial Japanese Navy. Part of the buildup was the arrival of six new Grumman TBF-1 Avenger torpedo planes assigned to Torpedo Squadron VT-8. Half of VT-8 was stationed on the USS *Hornet* (CV-8) and flew the aging Douglas TBD-1 Devastator. The others trained on its replacement, the Avenger.

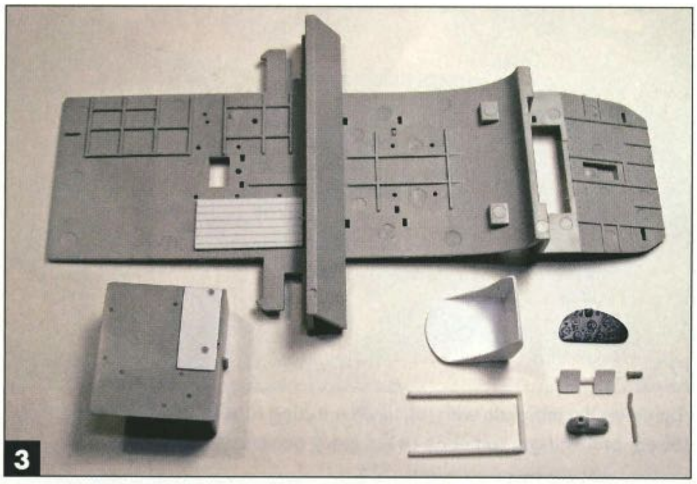
Neither the TBDs nor the TBFs were any match for the Zeroes defending the Japanese fleet. Five of the six Avengers on the June 4 mission were shot down; the only survivor crash-landed on Midway.



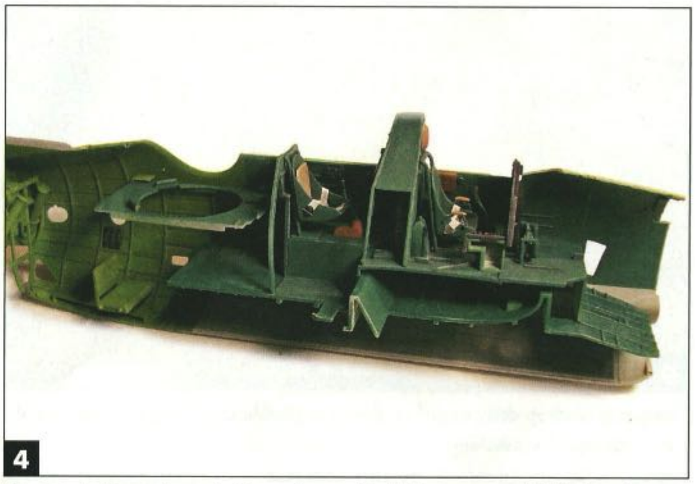
Phillip moved windows on the fuselage by filling old ones with styrene, then cutting out smaller ones.



A round file made room for a machine gun up front.



Spare and scratchbuilt parts formed a second compartment behind the pilot's seat.



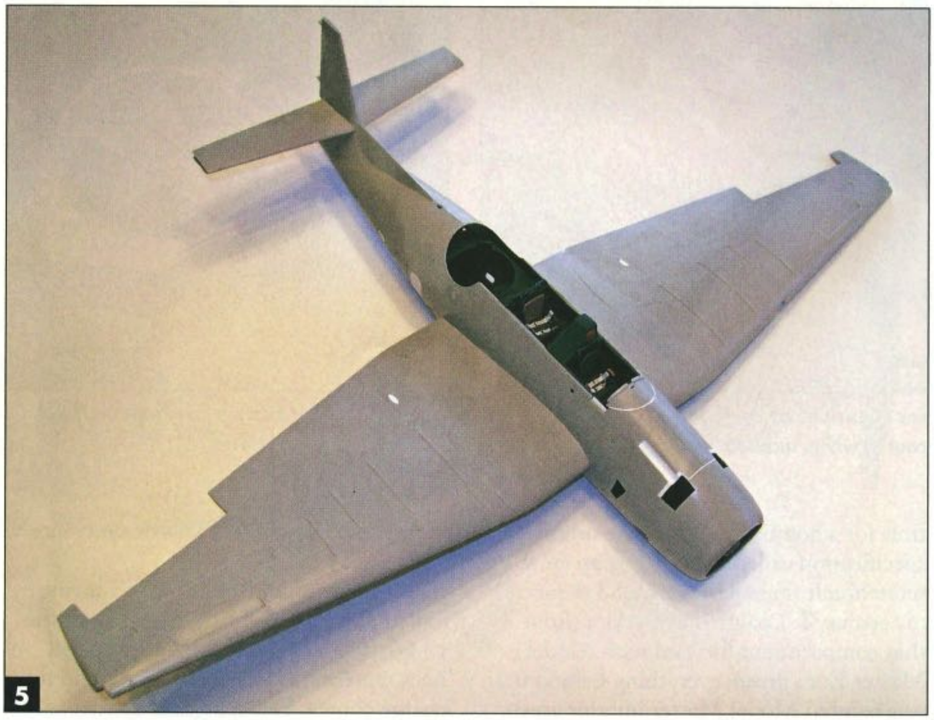
Photoetched-metal seat belts and scratchbuilt levers were Phillip's only other additions to the kit's well-detailed interior.

For a long time, I had wanted to model a Midway Avenger. Finally, when Trumpeter released its 1/32 scale TBF-1C kit, it was time for me to go to work. I had to make a few changes to backdate the TBF-1C to the early-production TBF-1. I chose to model the "8-T-1" (Bureau Number 0380), the sole survivor at Midway and also the first Avenger delivered to the U.S. Navy.

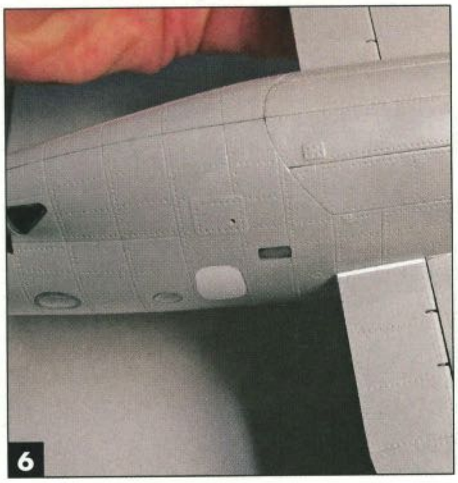
Construction modifications

First I had to relocate some of the fuselage windows. I filled the largest oval windows with styrene, then cut out small round and rectangle windows, **1**. Next I added a trough at the front right fuselage behind the cowling where a single .30-caliber machine gun was located. I used a round file on a small block of styrene to get the desired shape. This indentation extended into the cowl flap, **2**.

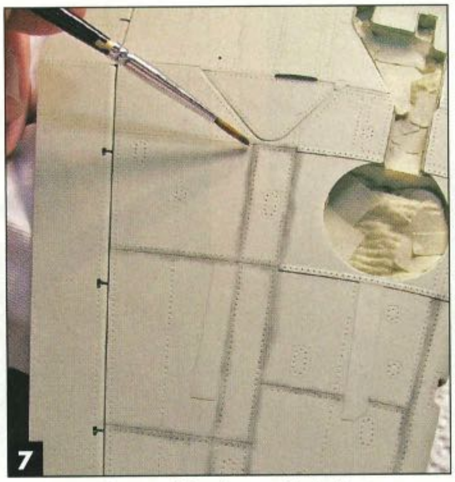
The first 50 production TBF-1s had a compartment behind the pilot that included a seat and simplified flight con-



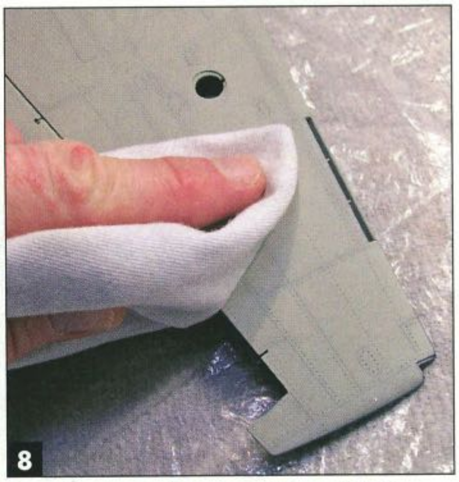
Phillip filled holes and erased panel lines to remove gun details on the wings.


6

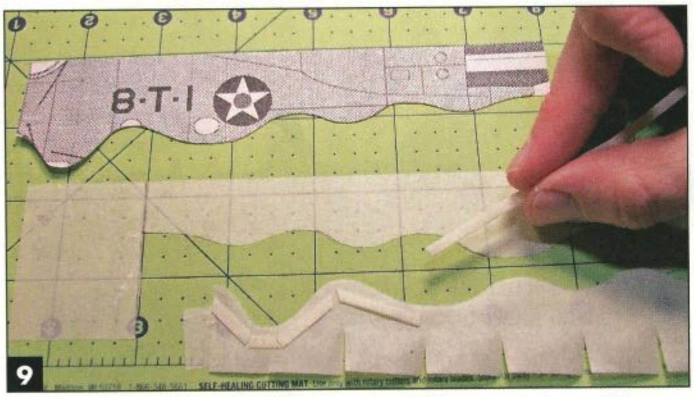
Phillip filled gaps at the wing root with styrene.


7

Phillip used a small brush to add dark gray pastel dust along panel lines.

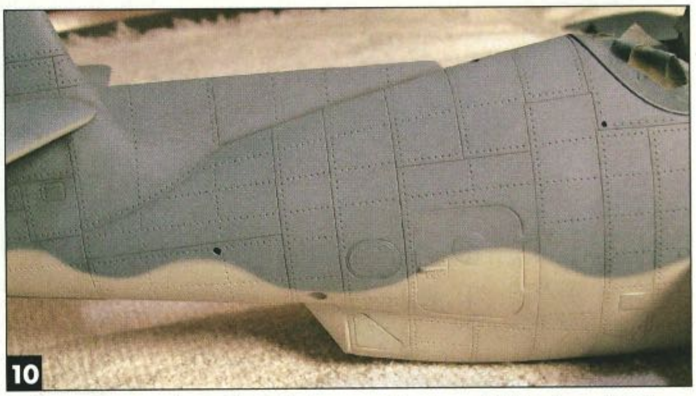

8

Removing some of the dust with a soft cloth created a more subtle effect.

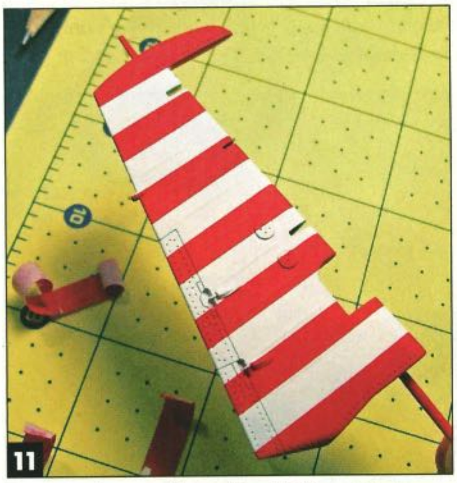


9

Using a scaled-up drawing of an Avenger profile as a template, Phillip cut pieces of tape for masking.


10

Taping on the template with rolled-up masking tape left its edges slightly raised, producing a soft edge at the wavy demarcation.


11

For the stripes on the rudder, Phillip painted a coat of white, masked, then painted red.

12

Phillip cut the clear carrier film from the decal using a sharp hobby knife.

13

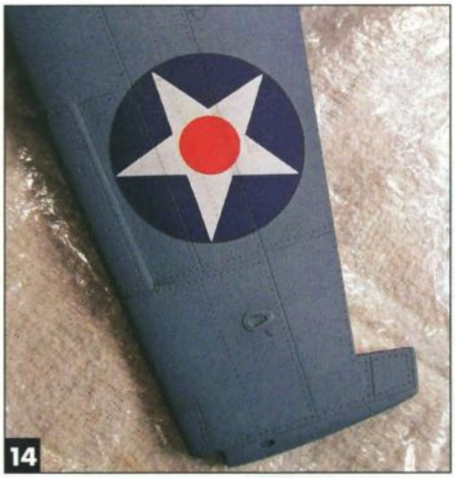
Before placing each decal, Phillip applied decal-setting solution to the model.

trols for a bombardier, since the original specification called for a four-man crew. I scratchbuilt these parts or found them in my spares, **3**. I painted everything from that compartment forward with Model Master Euro green; everything behind it was painted Model Master interior green. Photoetched-metal seat belts and scratchbuilt levers finished the kit's detailed interior, **4**.

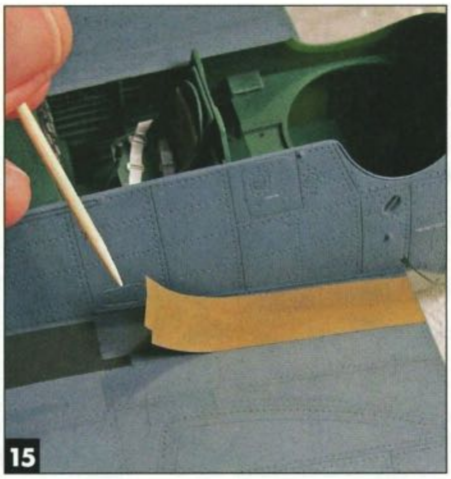
The final modification was removing any hints of the .50-caliber guns from the wings, including all the holes and panel lines representing access openings and discharge chutes, **5**. During this construction, I also added small pieces of styrene to fill gaps between subassemblies, **6**.

Painting and decaling

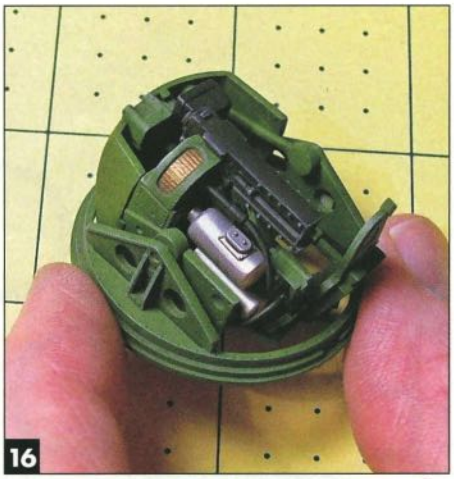
I painted the lower fuselage Model Master gull gray and dusted dark gray pastels along the panel lines with a small brush, **7**. I used a soft cloth to remove some of the dust and make the paneling effect more subtle, **8**. To



Applying a little more decal-setting solution and touching up paint finished the Avenger's decals.



Painted masking tape replicated the Avenger's wing walkway.



Phillip temporarily removed the .50-caliber machine gun barrel from the turret for ease of painting.

achieve the wavy demarcation between gull gray and Model Master intermediate blue, I enlarged a drawing of a Midway Avenger profile to use as a template. After cutting a strip of masking tape to the desired pattern, **9**, I rolled up small pieces of tape and applied them to the back side of the mask to lift the mask and make a softer line, **10**. To reproduce the rudder stripes, I painted a coat of white, masked it with tape, and then painted red, **11**.

I avoided having to apply a glossy top coat for the decals by carefully buffing the paint finish with a soft cloth. Next I cut the clear carrier film from each decal, **12**, and applied a generous amount of decal-setting solution to the model before placing each decal, **13**. Then I cut the decals along each recessed panel line, using a needle to poke holes into every rivet hole. Finally I applied more decal-setting solution and touched up paint, **14**.

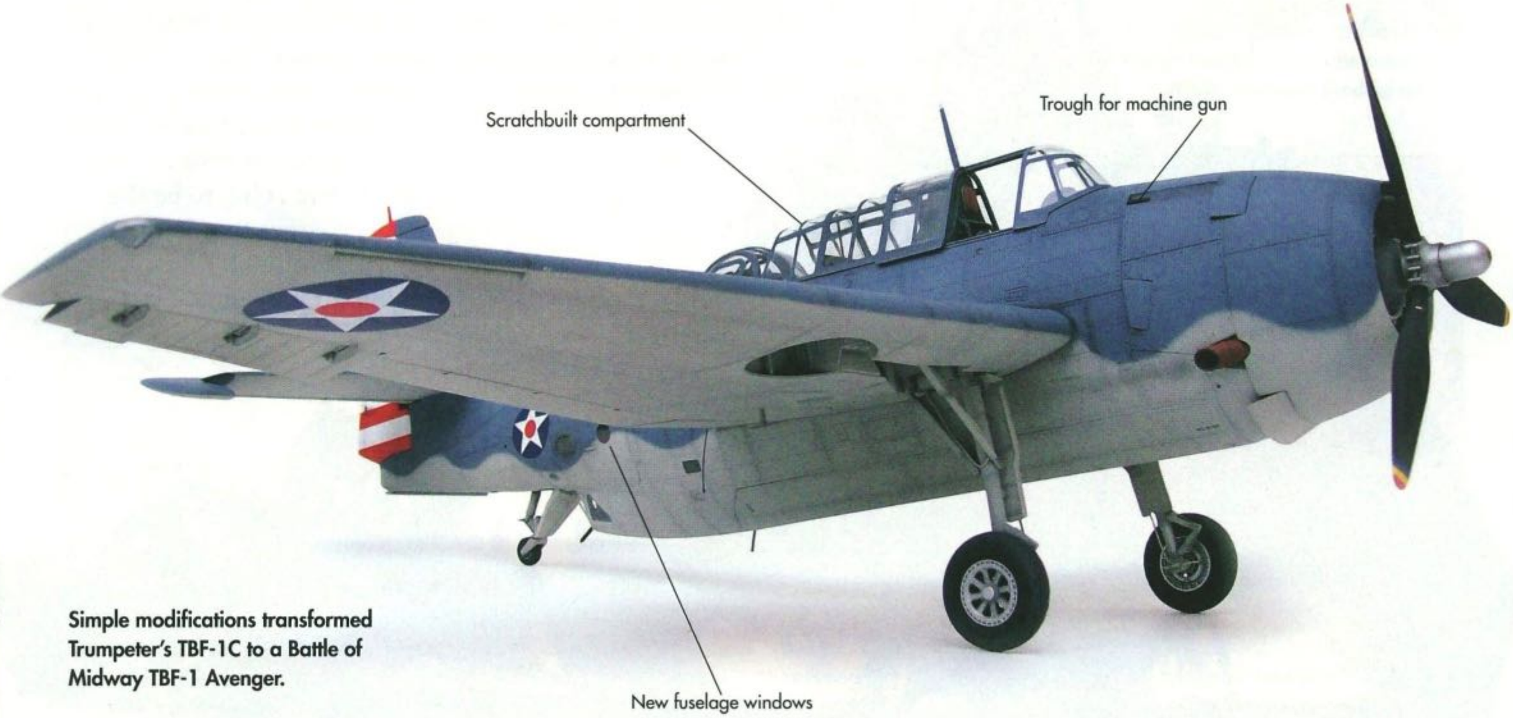
Final details

Many early Avengers had a dual-color wing walkway. Several photos show the front half was black, and the rear half dark tan. I used painted masking tape for this area, **15**.

I modified the turret assembly so I could install it after the fuselage halves were assembled. I cut off the .50-caliber gun barrel and added the canopy and cockpit deck after the turret was in place, **16**.

When I was almost done with the project, I accidentally cracked one of the canopy sections. Careful cutting and an extra part from the kit made the original canopy good as new. After all the small exterior parts were painted and glued, my Avenger was finished.

Even with the early TBF-1 conversions, Trumpeter's Avenger was not a difficult kit to build. "8-T-1" was shipped back to Pearl Harbor in late June 1942 for combat evaluation that revealed it had been hit at least 64 times by 7.7mm bullets, and nine times by 20mm cannon fire. The fate of the aircraft after the Battle of Midway is unknown. But due to its extensive damage, it was probably scrapped or repaired for noncombat duty. **FSM**



Simple modifications transformed Trumpeter's TBF-1C to a Battle of Midway TBF-1 Avenger.

SCALE MODELING
ESSENTIALS

MODEL SHIP BUILDING BASICS

Part 2: Dealing with small parts and photoetched metal

BY AARON SKINNER

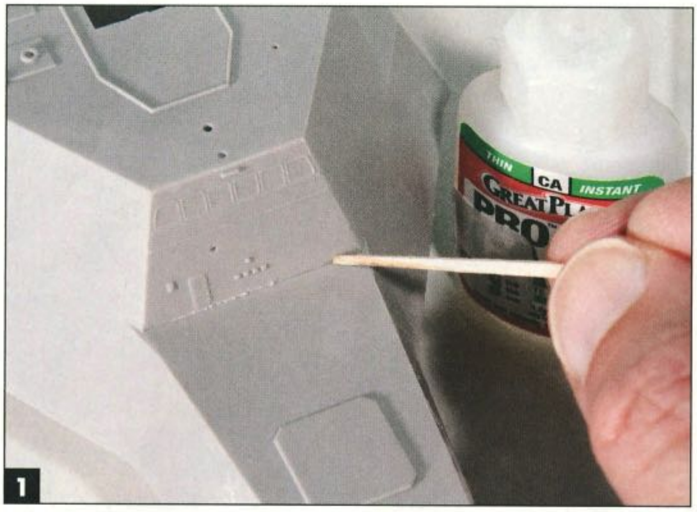
The USS *Independence* (LCS 2), approaches Naval Station Mayport, Fla., for a port call in April 2010. *Independence* was en route to Norfolk, Va., for initial testing and evaluation. U.S. Navy photo.

Welcome back to the second build in *FSM*'s "Scale Modeling Essentials."

It had been a long time since I set out to build a ship model. So, I decided to tackle Trumpeter's 1/350 scale USS *Independence* LCS-2. The littoral combat ship's simple shapes and lines, along with a minimum of photoetched metal, offer novice ship modelers a good introduction to the genre.

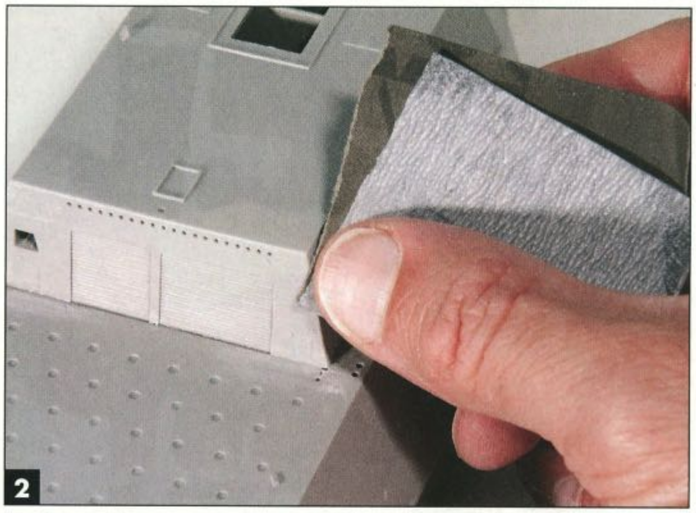
Last month I assembled the hull. This time, it's all about details: weapons, masts, and radars. That means dealing with small parts and photoetched metal. I have a love/hate relationship with the latter. I think it looks great, because the thin metal lends finesse to a model that plastic just can't achieve. But, it's also fiddly and easy to mess up or lose during construction.

All of that means special care should be taken during construction. I assembled some small parts, such as the Phalanx CIWS, gun turret, and smoke launchers, but left them off the model for painting. Other items, such as the helicopter deck lights and photoetched-metal tie-downs, were attached before painting. I based those decisions on whether or not the parts were going to be the same color as the surrounding deck or hull. If not, I left them off until later.



1

Before adding delicate parts — plastic or metal — to the model, it's a good idea to make sure all the heavy handling is done. Check for gaps between panels. I filled a couple of minor openings on the *Independence* by flowing thin super glue from the end of a toothpick.

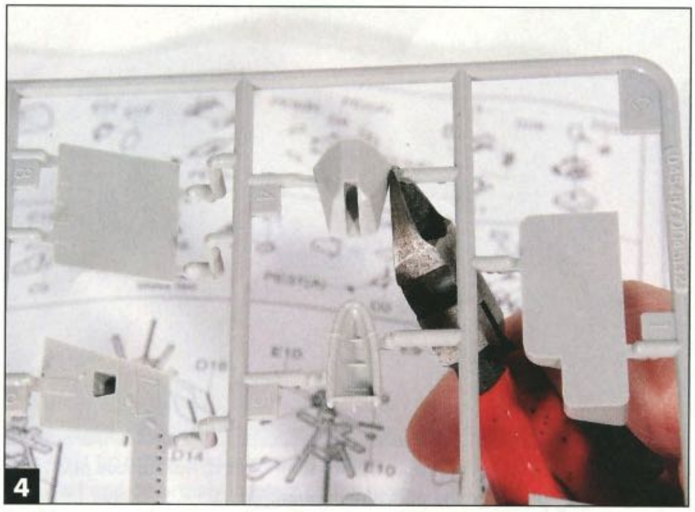


2

I took care of some messy joins — mild overlaps and glue residue — with a few swipes of 1000-grit sandpaper. Work gently and sand with the sides to avoid creating flat spots along the edges.

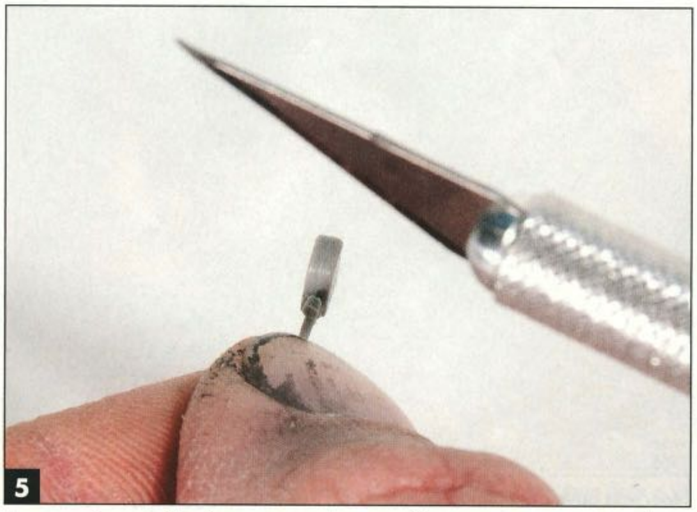
3

Small-part tools: I put a new No. 11 blade in my hobby knife and made sure I had pointed tweezers, a fine razor saw, and good sprue cutters handy.



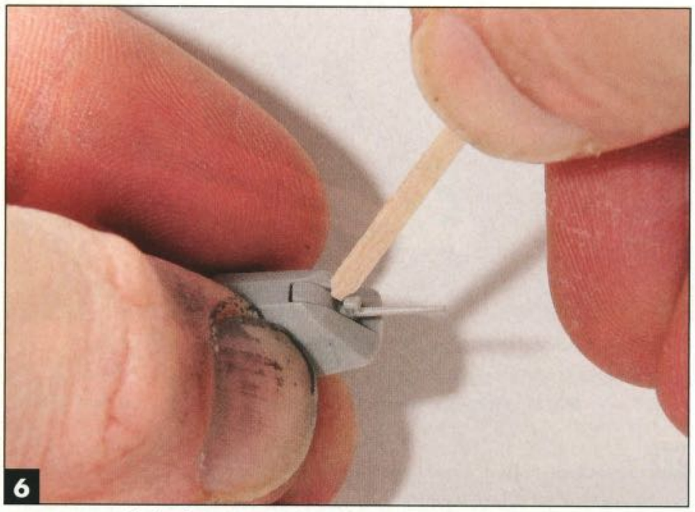
4

I cut larger small parts, such as the turret, off the tree with sprue cutters. Placing the flat edge of the jaws close to the part minimizes sanding and cleanup.



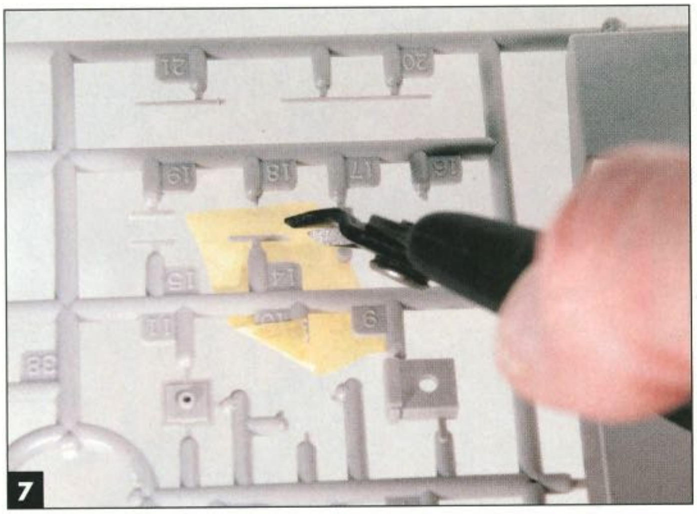
5

Even small parts, like the gun, may have mold seams to remove. I used a No. 11 blade to gently scrape the blemish from the part. You can also use a sanding stick, but be careful not to press too hard and break parts.



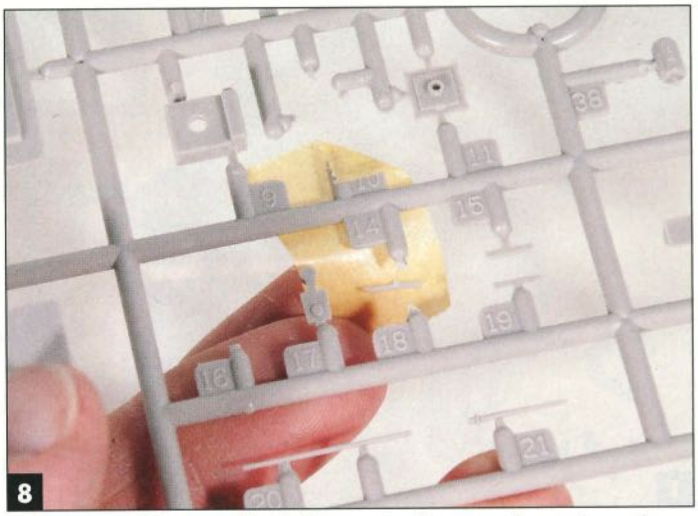
6

Tweezers can help place a part, but I find a wooden toothpick handy for pushing delicate parts into place. The softer wood has some give and is less likely to damage the plastic than metal.



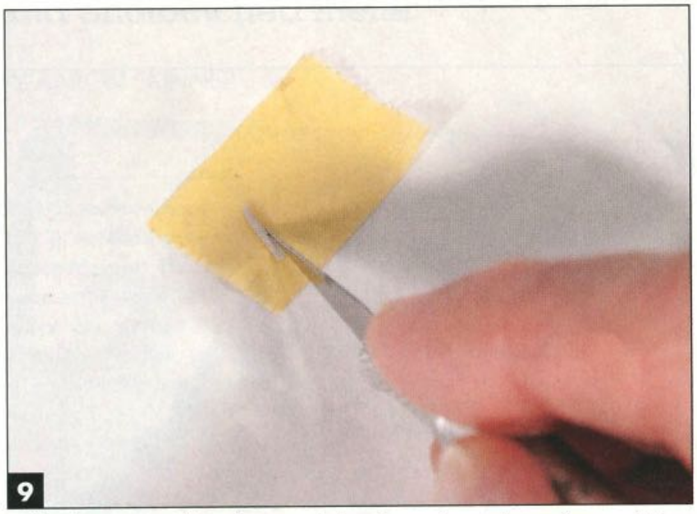
7

To control flyaway parts, I apply a piece of low-tack tape to the sprue and press the part into it before cutting it off with sprue cutters.



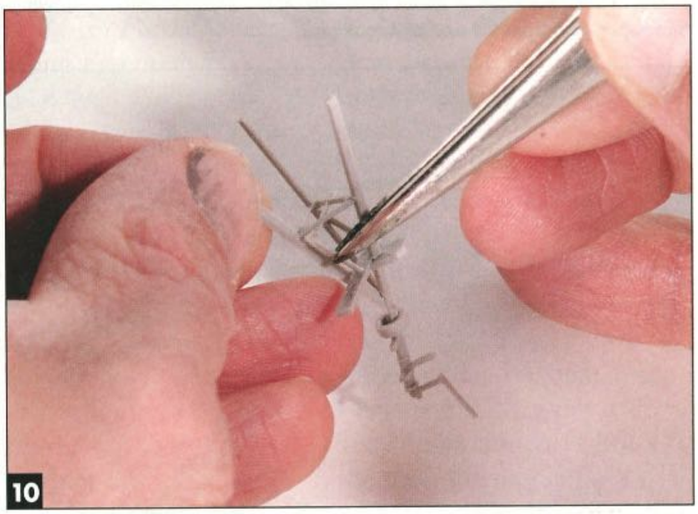
8

Then I can peel the part off with the tape. It still pays to be gentle, as the part can come off the tape if you bend it too abruptly.



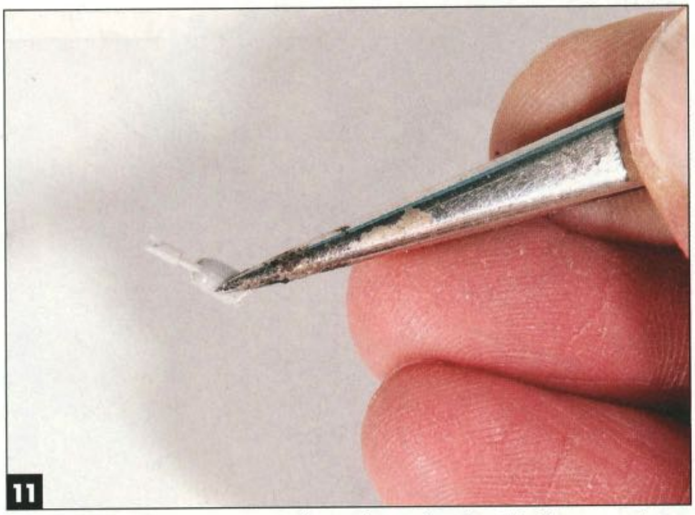
9

While the part is still on the tape, I place it on a hard, flat surface and trim any remaining plastic at the attachment point.



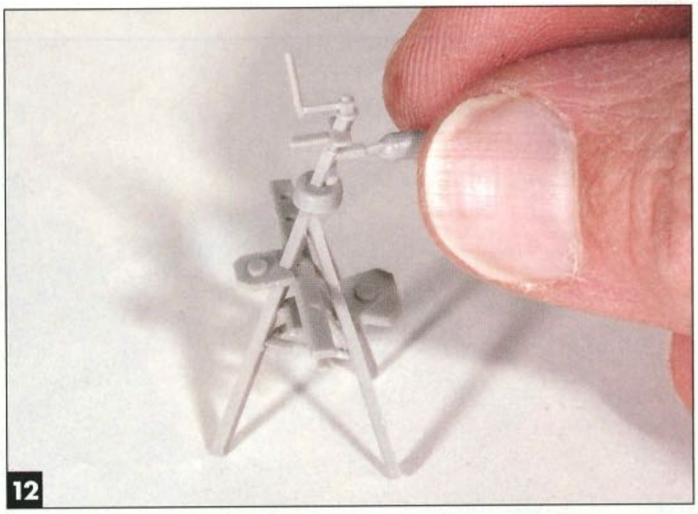
10

With the part cleaned up, I install it on the ship's mast with tweezers. I add a drop of liquid cement — just enough to make it tacky enough to hold the parts — to the attachment points before positioning the part. Once it's in place, I add a little more glue to secure it.



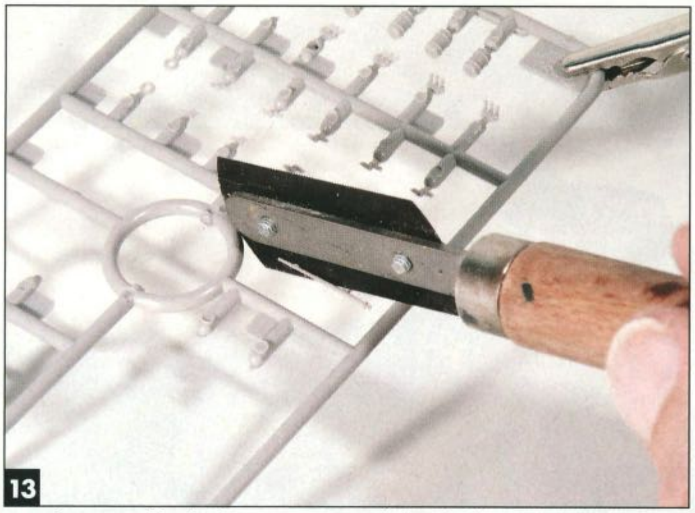
11

Sometimes, what a tiny part really needs is a handle. Clip the sprue about ½" from the part so you have more to hang onto.



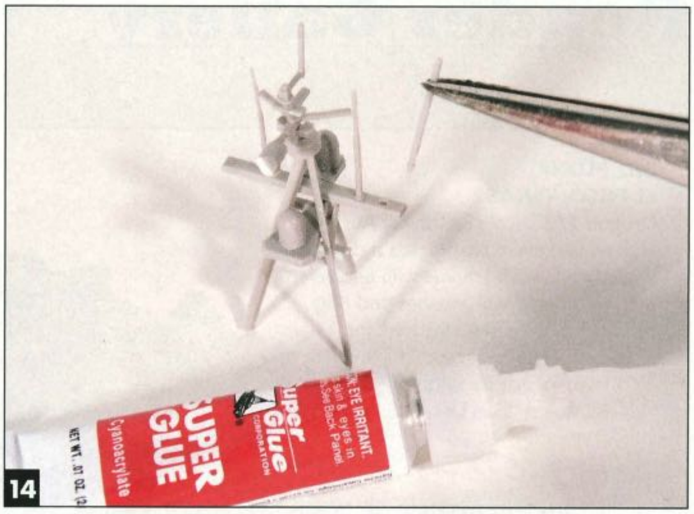
12

Now you have a little more control, and the part is big enough to position by hand. Once the glue dries, gently clip off the handle with sprue cutters or a razor saw.



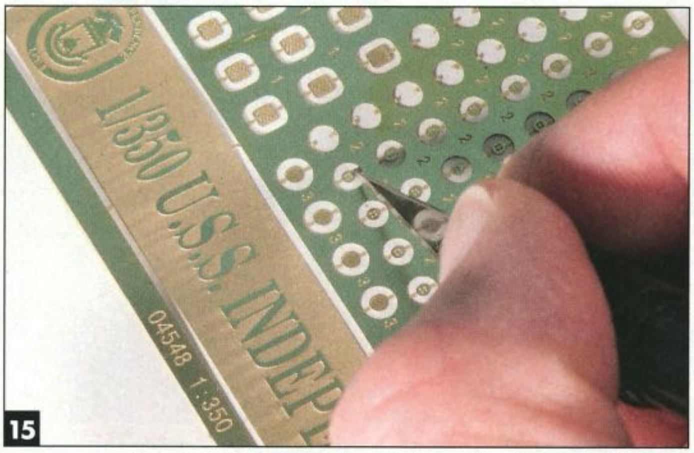
13

Very thin parts like the kit's antennas might break if removed with sprue cutters. Gently saw off the part with a razor saw. The part should come off cleanly without being bent.



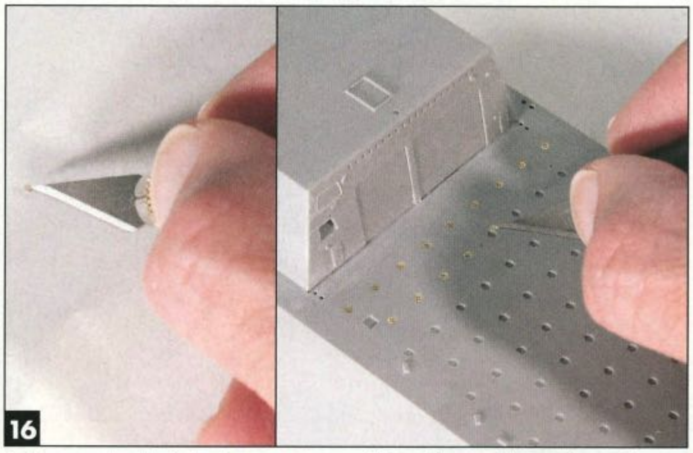
14

Attach thin plastic parts like this antenna with super glue rather than solvent cement; it'll secure the part without melting or distorting the delicate plastic.



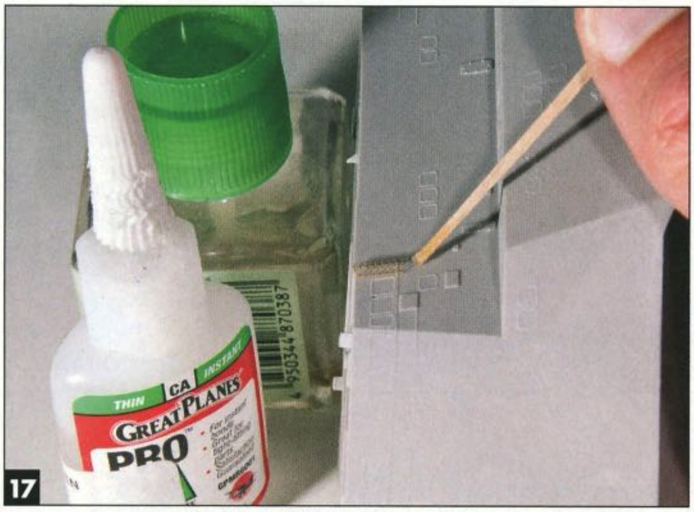
15

To remove a photoetched-metal part from the fret, place it on a hard surface like glass. (A soft surface, such as a cutting mat, can allow the part to bend or crease.) Then, place a new, sharp blade against the edge of the part and slice through the attachment point. If the blade is dull, it will pull at the metal, distorting or damaging it rather than cutting.



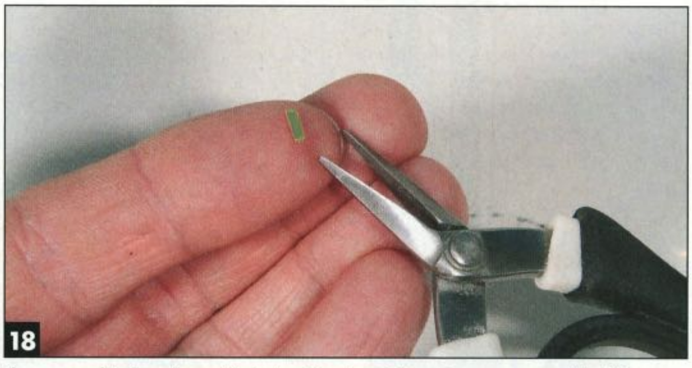
16

As long as the blade is sharp, you can pick up the part by gently pushing the knife tip into it. (Make sure it's still on the glass.) Now you can transfer the part and accurately locate it on the model. For the tie-downs, I applied a little thin super glue to the holes before placing the parts.



17

For items like the ladders on the ship's side, I place the part, then flow a little thin super glue from the tip of a toothpick. Assembling or attaching all of the small parts takes time and patience.



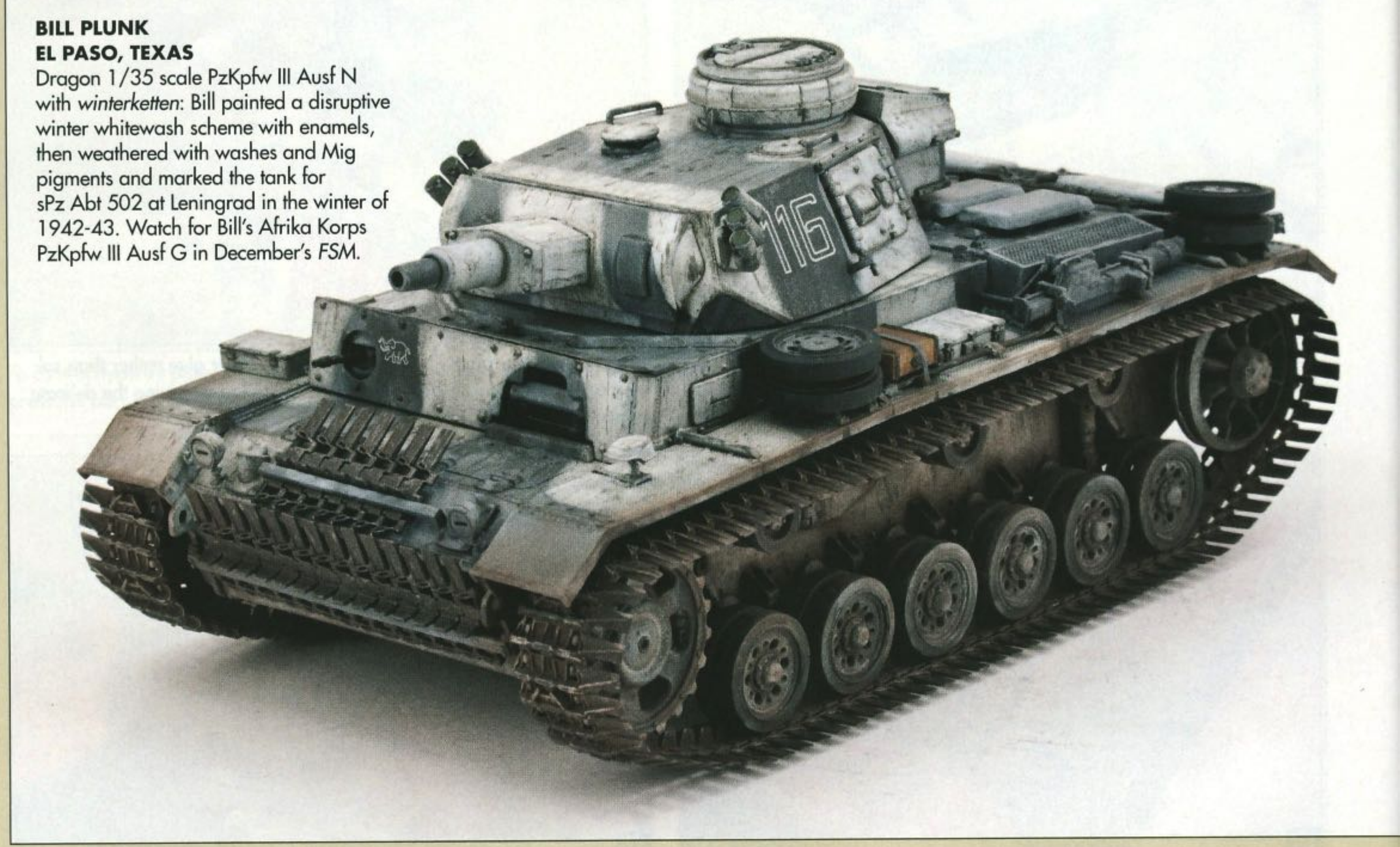
18

If you need to bend small photoetched-metal parts, arm yourself with a pair of pointed-tip smooth-jawed pliers. They allow you to get a good grip on the part and produce a crisp bend without scratches. **FSM**

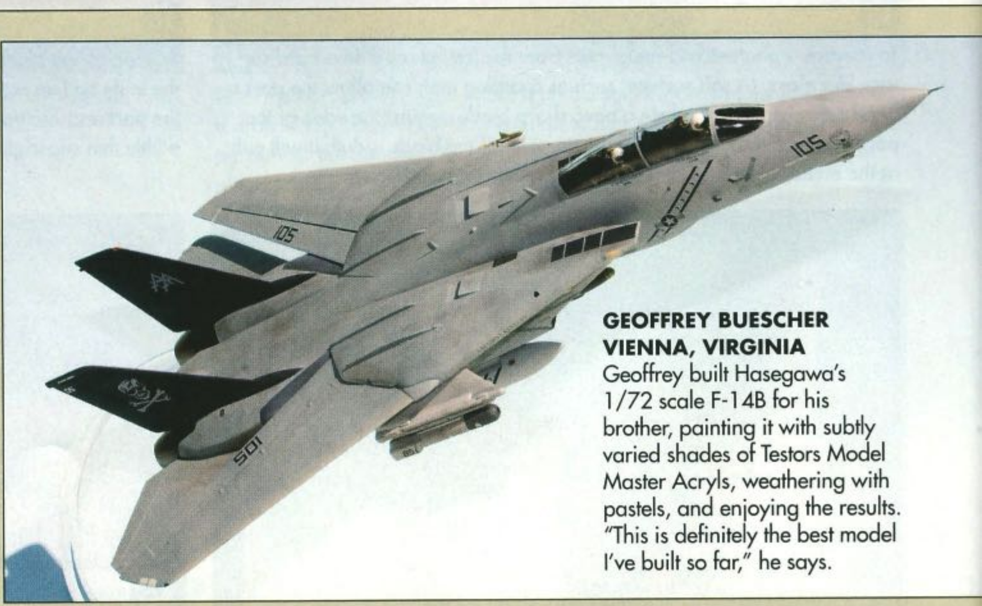
DON'T MISS PART 3!

It's time to get the paint underway: You can have any color you want, as long as it's haze gray.

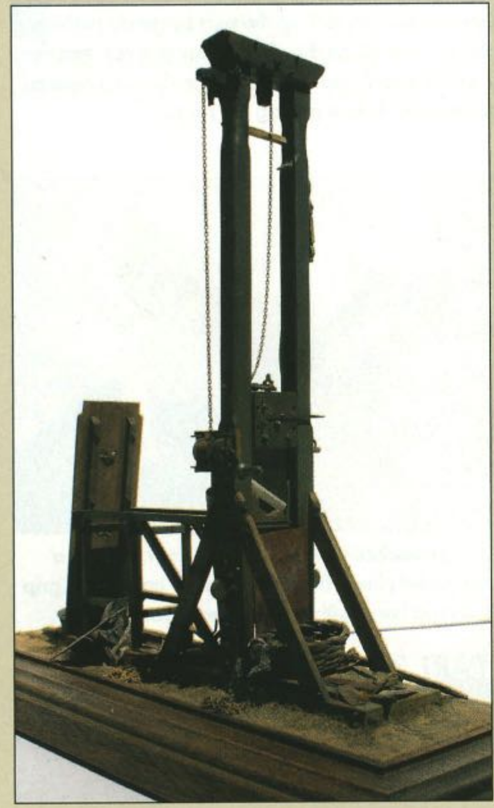
Reader Gallery



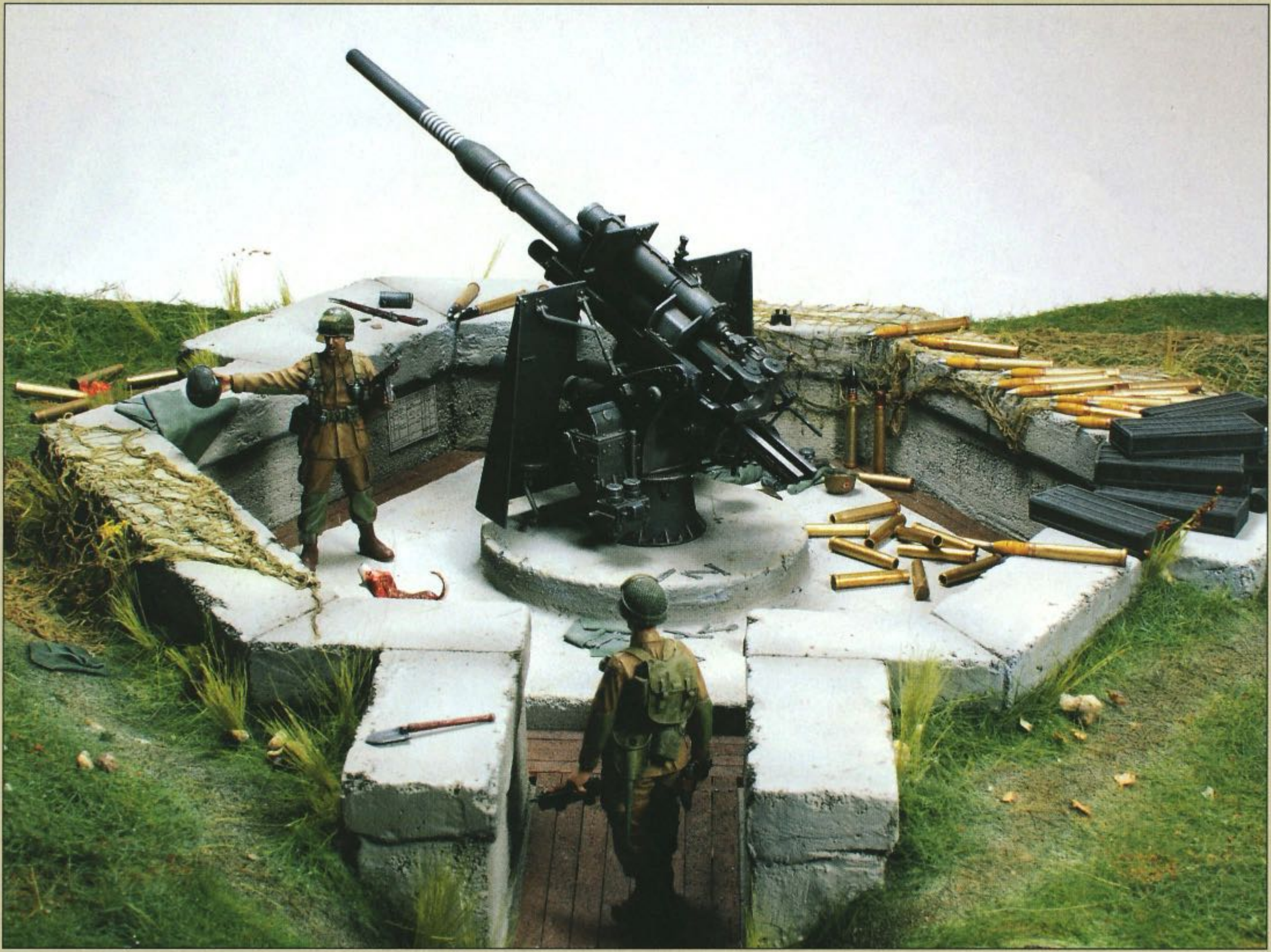
BILL PLUNK
EL PASO, TEXAS
Dragon 1/35 scale PzKpfw III Ausf N with *winterketten*: Bill painted a disruptive winter whitewash scheme with enamels, then weathered with washes and Mig pigments and marked the tank for sPz Abt 502 at Leningrad in the winter of 1942-43. Watch for Bill's Afrika Korps PzKpfw III Ausf G in December's *FSM*.

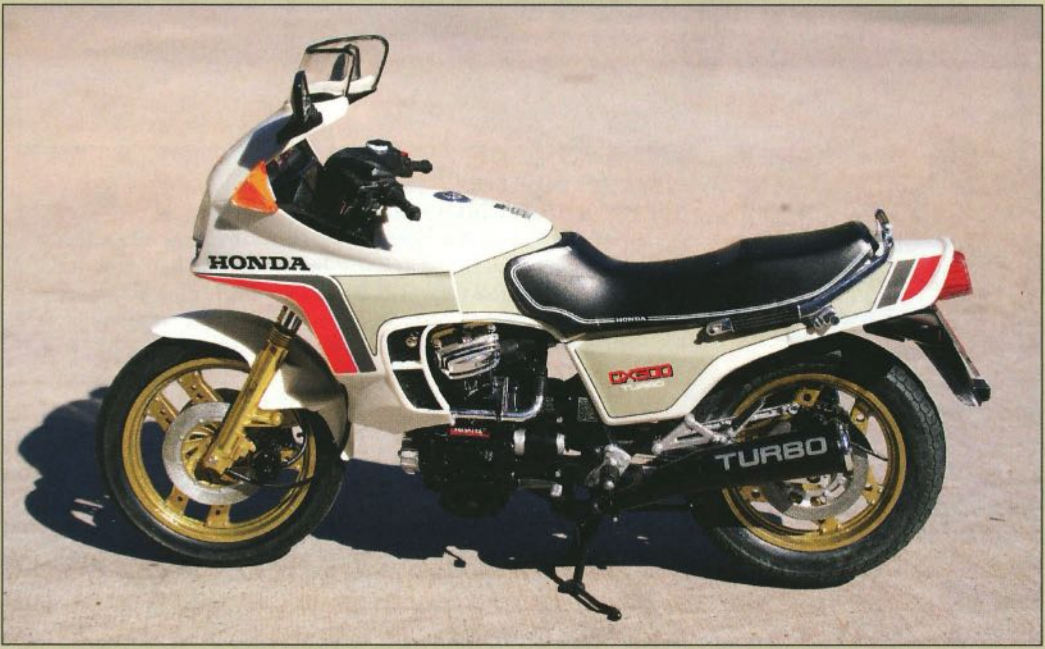


GEOFFREY BUESCHER
VIENNA, VIRGINIA
Geoffrey built Hasegawa's 1/72 scale F-14B for his brother, painting it with subtly varied shades of Testors Model Master Acryls, weathering with pastels, and enjoying the results. "This is definitely the best model I've built so far," he says.



◄ MARK ALVARADO
BEND, OREGON
Now, let's not lose our heads over this: Aurora's 1/15 scale Guillotine was modeled in a state of disuse by Mark, who saw no need to bloody it. "We all know what it did," he says. "Any shade of red you see is meant to represent corrosion." He kept only the uprights, upper cross member, stock, and blade casing from the original model, replacing parts with styrene, basswood, and a 1⁄16" stainless steel blade. "The model is completely functional, but not dangerous," he says. Cake, anyone?





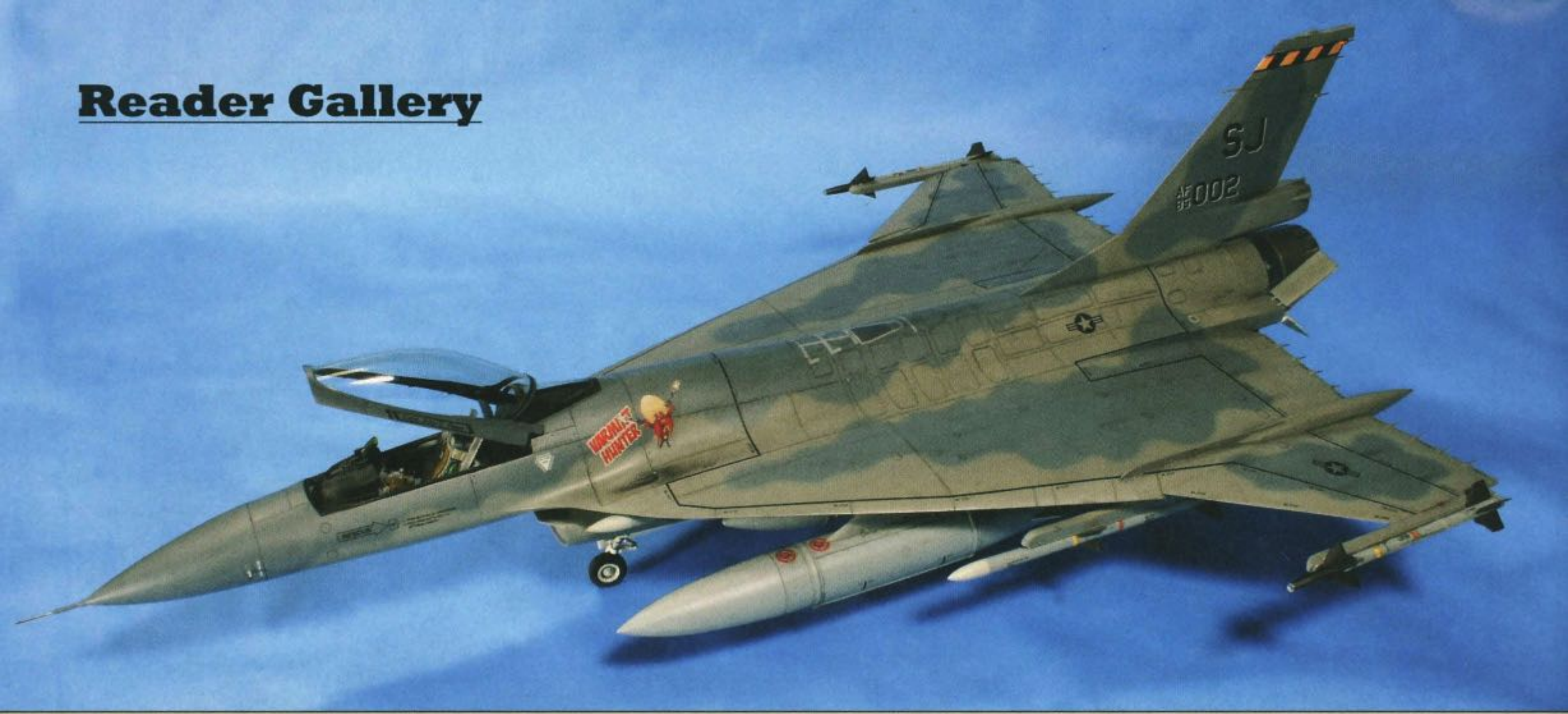
▲ RICKY WONG
BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Using Dragon's 88mm gun and Verlinden figures and accessories, Ricky built a captured Normandy flak emplacement. "Here, the crew abandoned its gun, its ammunition, even its dog!" Ricky says. He made the base with contours of urethane foam. The concrete enclosure is plaster of paris; static grass surrounds the position.

▲ PAUL VARDA
GILBERT, ARIZONA

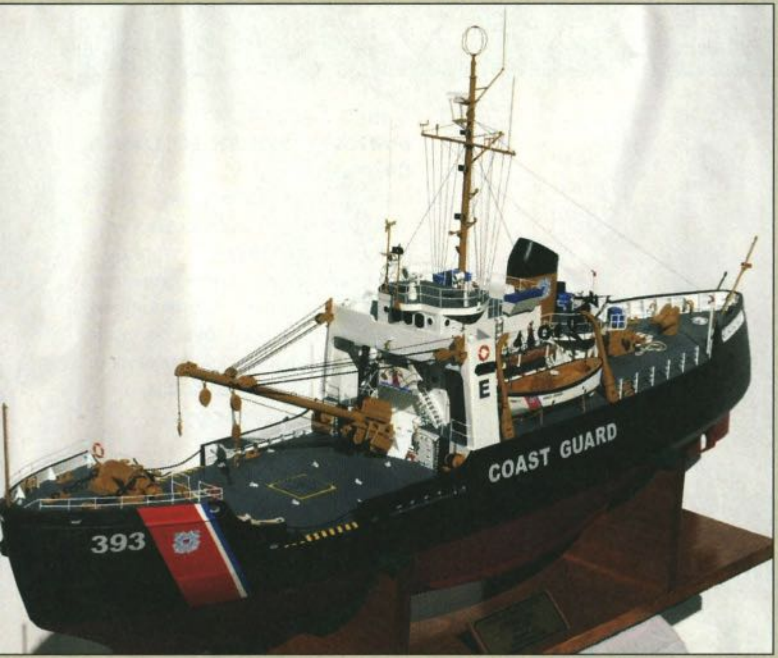
It was a leisurely build of Tamiya's 1/12 scale 1982 Honda CX500 Turbo for Paul: "The kit was an absolute joy to build. I took my time and spent a year on and off finishing it. For its time, this bike was a technological wonder, a fuel-injected, turbocharged 500cc V-twin."

Reader Gallery



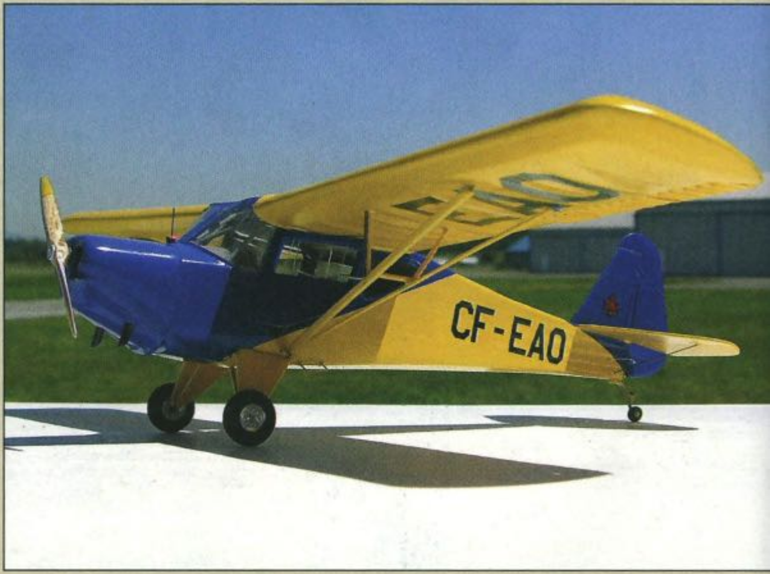
▲ JOHN PAYNE
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY

Having built Wild Hare's F-16XL conversion using Tamiya's 1/32 scale Thunderbirds F-16C, John says, "You're looking at an investment of almost $500. The conversion has annoying inaccuracies, but I love the XL so much I had to have it." He finished with Testors Model Master paints and weathered the plane with a combination of dirty thinner and chalk pastels. "Except for some aftermarket stenciling, the decals are almost entirely homemade," he says, "designed in CorelDraw and printed on an Alps printer." John made "what if" squadron markings to represent his father's World War II unit, the 333rd FS.



▲ ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Robert scratchbuilt a 1/48 scale model of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Firebush* (WLB-393), an oceangoing buoy tender launched in February 1944. He used plank-on-frame construction, brass wire, plywood, and styrene, and finished it with acrylic paints. "I was aboard in the winter of 1977 during a high school break while I was with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps," he says. The *Firebush* was decommissioned in May 2003 and now serves the Nigerian navy as the NNS *Nwamba*.



▲ BARNEY DUNLEVY
SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

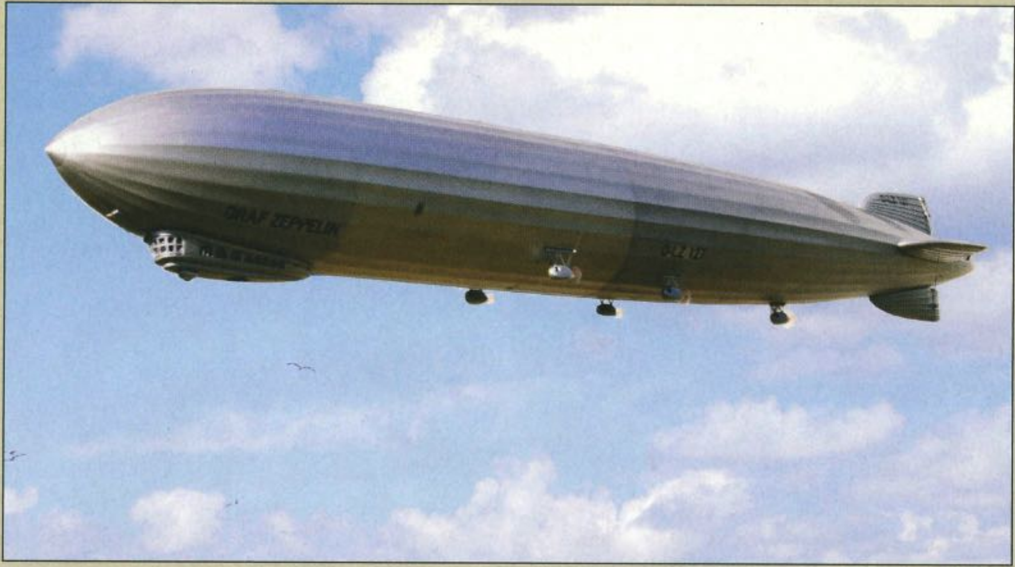
"In July 1952 I had my first flight training lesson in a Fleet 80 Canuck operated by the Windsor Flying Club," Barney says. "The aircraft was CF-EAO. Now, 58 years later, I've scratchbuilt this 1/32 scale replica of my 'first.' The model is as accurate as possible, with only a couple of very tiny details omitted due to limited eyesight."

SEND US YOUR PICTURES!

Shouldn't your model be in Reader Gallery? *FineScale Modeler* is always accepting new material from around the world.

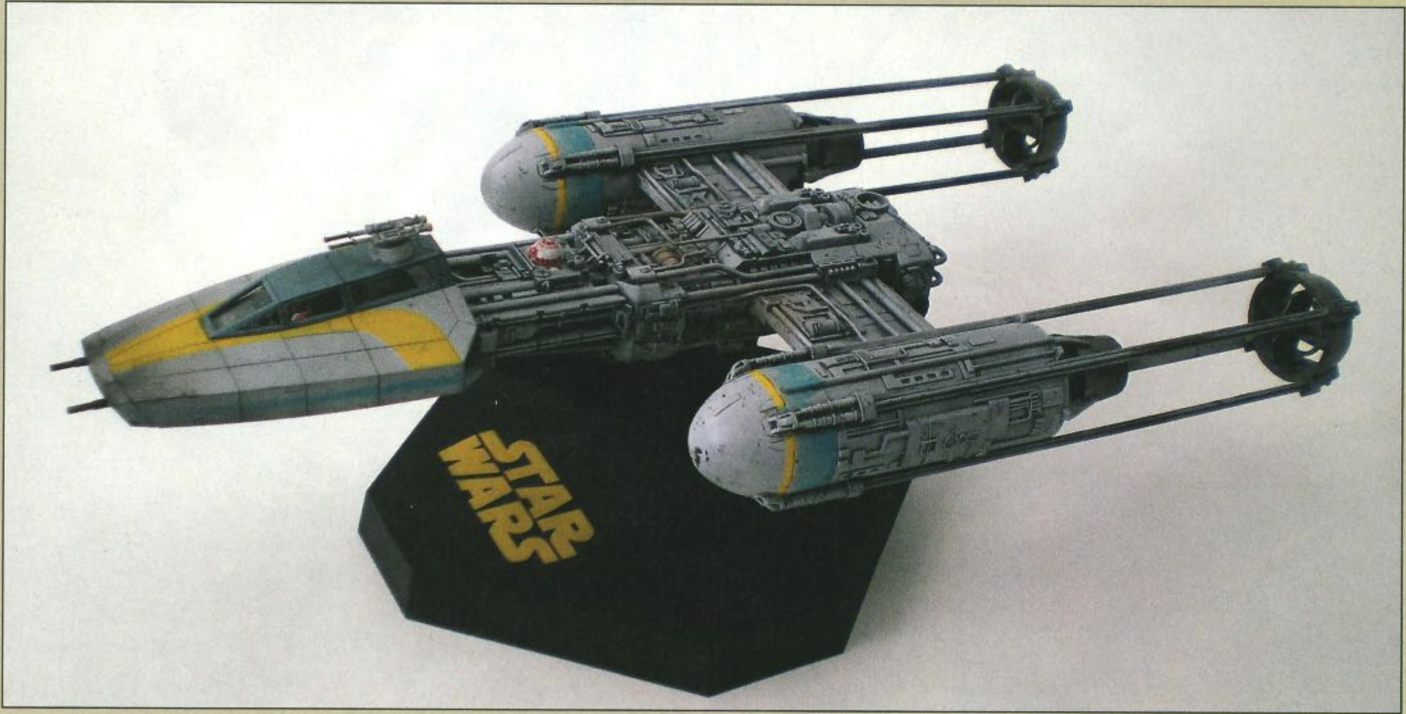
Upload high-resolution digital images (preferably unedited, RAW format) with complete captions at www.Contribute.Kalmbach.com, or send prints or CD-ROMs to *FineScale Modeler*, Reader Gallery, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.

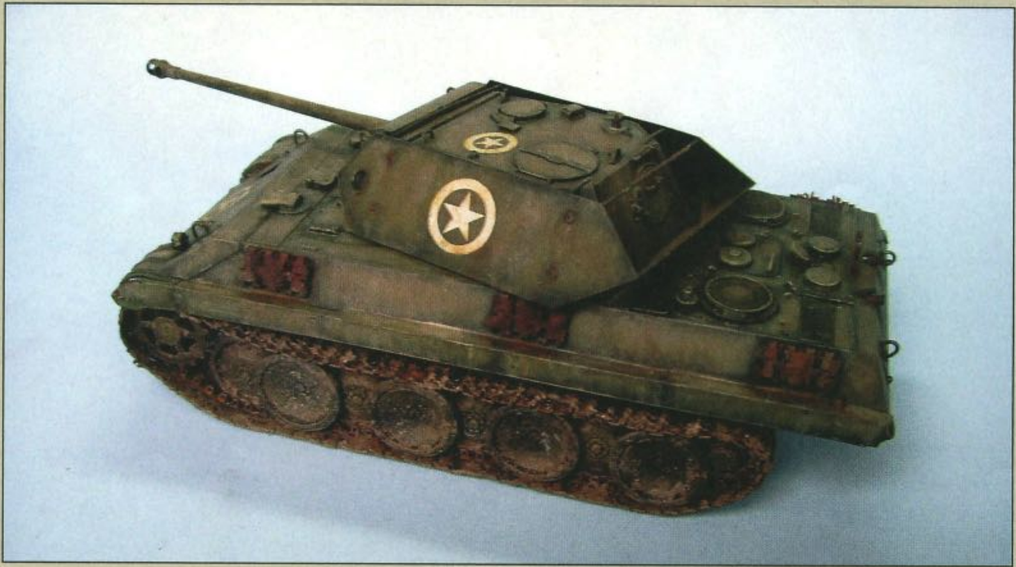
Be sure to tell us the kit manufacturer, model, scale, modifications, paint and finishes used, and reason for choosing the model, along with your name and address. We look forward to seeing your work!



◀ **DON STAUFFER**
COON RAPIDS, MINNESOTA
Don built the Lindberg (ex-Hawk) 1/245 scale *Graf Zeppelin*, photographed it, then used photo editing to clip out the airship and set the image a-sail in a sunny sky.

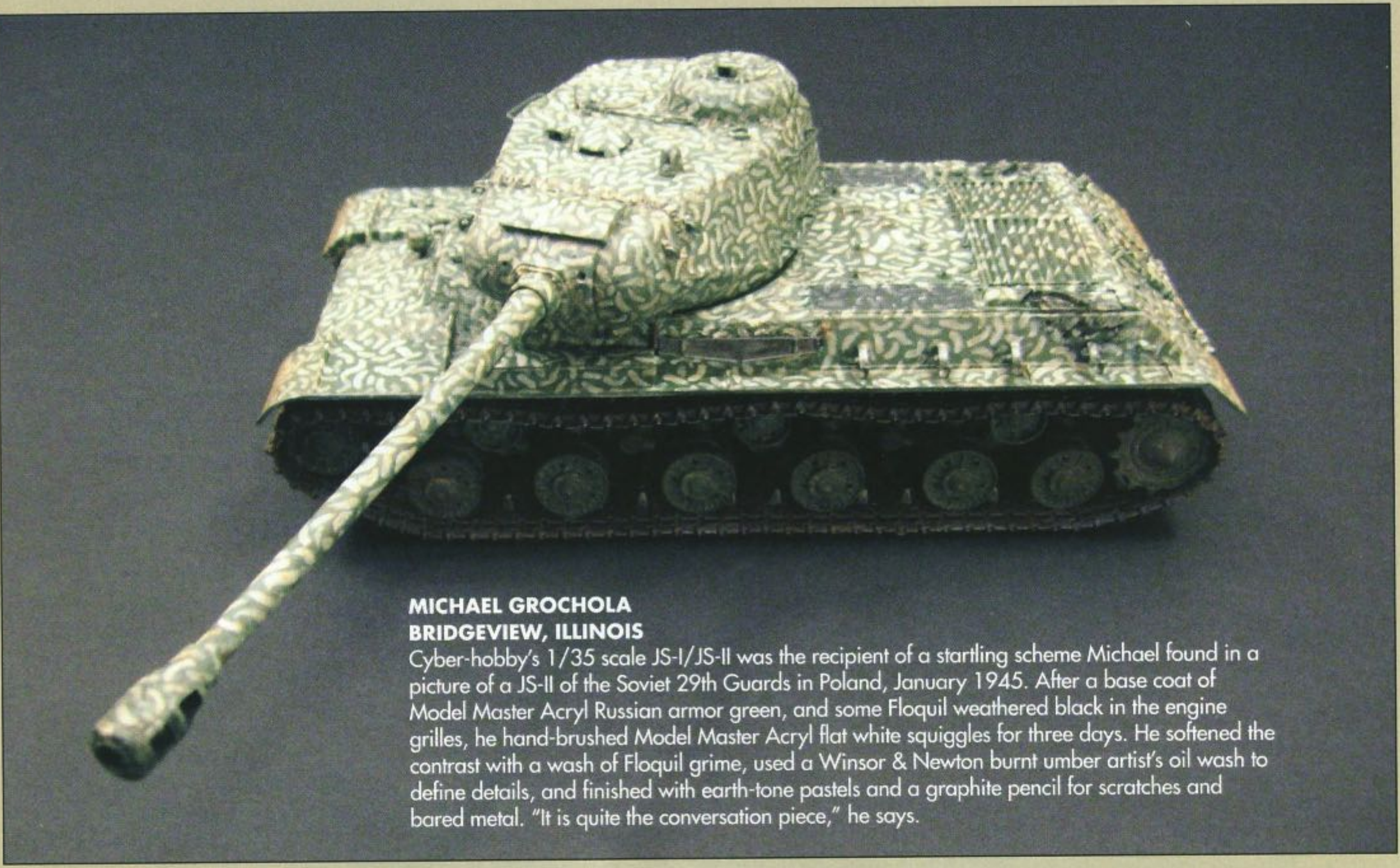
▼ **JIM BEAVER**
HATBORO, PENNSYLVANIA
"This is the 1/72 scale FineMolds 'Star Wars' Y-wing," Jim says. He used Tamiya acrylics and a chalk-pastel wash to finish. "Even though the model is basically one color," he says, "there's so much going on that it's not boring at all."





◀ **KARL LOGAN**
AUBURN, NEW YORK
For the Battle of the Bulge, Germans disguised a few tanks with welded plates on the turret to resemble American M10 tank destroyers. Karl infiltrated *FSM* Reader Gallery with this Dragon 1/35 scale Ersatz M10. The frequent *FSM* author weathered the tank heavily with Mig pigments and artist's oil washes.

Reader Gallery

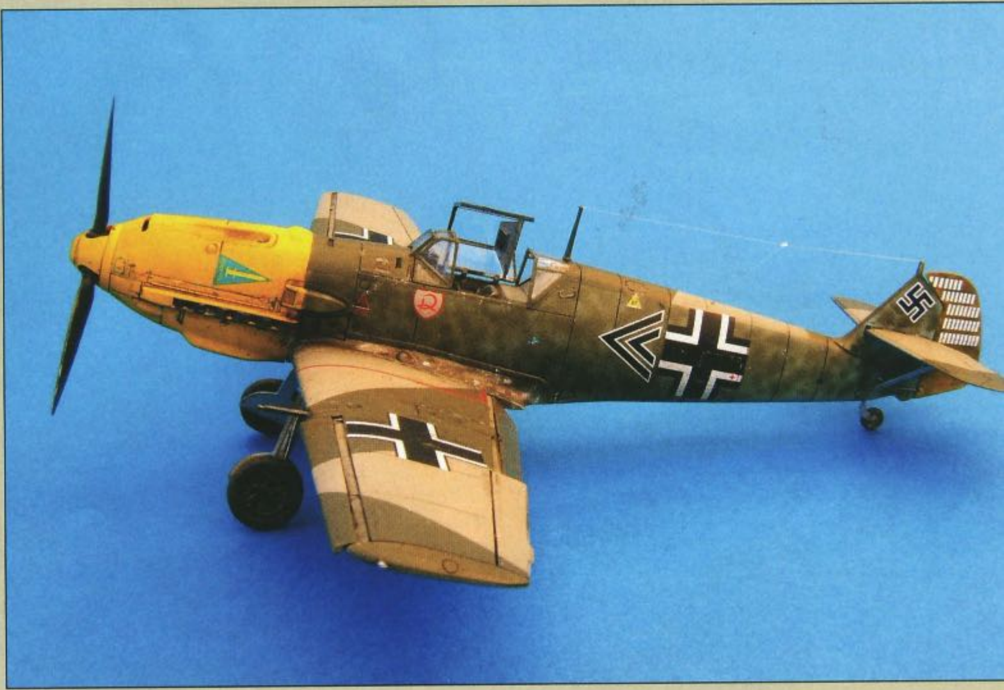


MICHAEL GROCHOLA
BRIDGEVIEW, ILLINOIS

Cyber-hobby's 1/35 scale JS-I/JS-II was the recipient of a startling scheme Michael found in a picture of a JS-II of the Soviet 29th Guards in Poland, January 1945. After a base coat of Model Master Acryl Russian armor green, and some Floquil weathered black in the engine grilles, he hand-brushed Model Master Acryl flat white squiggles for three days. He softened the contrast with a wash of Floquil grime, used a Winsor & Newton burnt umber artist's oil wash to define details, and finished with earth-tone pastels and a graphite pencil for scratches and bared metal. "It is quite the conversation piece," he says.

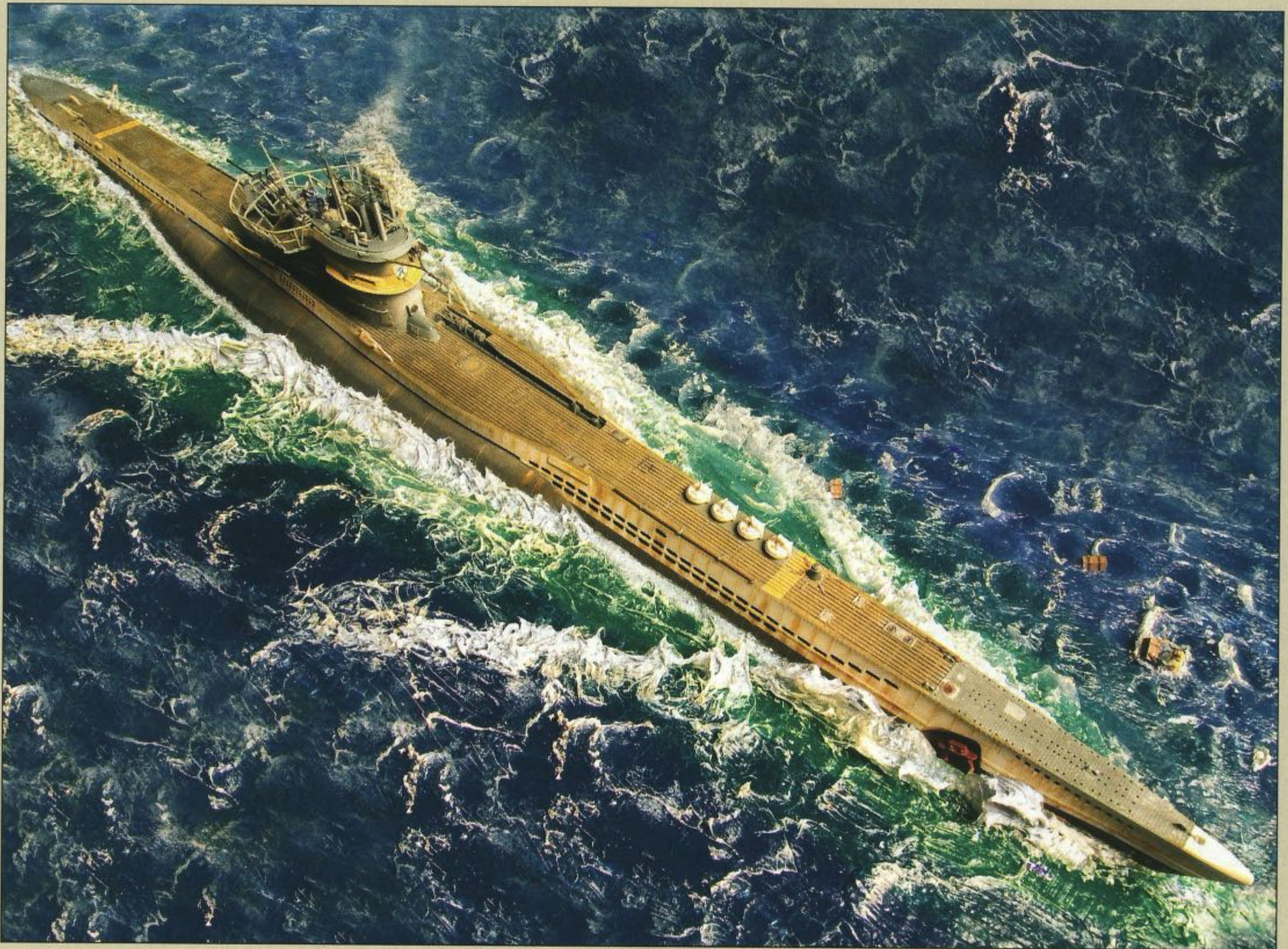
▶ PETE BAVE
WEST JORDAN, UTAH

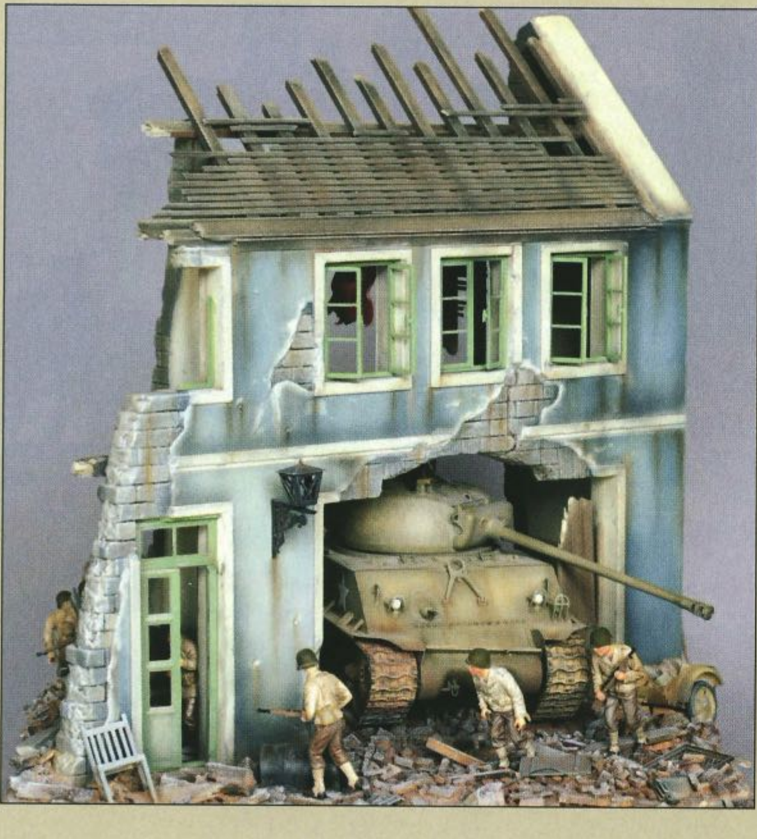
"This is the old Lunar Models resin kit of the *Luna* from the 1950 George Pal movie 'Destination Moon,'" Pete says. "I built it in 1988, then recently rediscovered it. After a final sanding with 12000-grit, I painted the craft black, then sprayed it with Alclad II stainless. I found a colorized moon image and used Photoshop to replicate a scene just after the ship inverts to brake and start the landing sequence."



▲ ANDY COOPER
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

Andy used Tamiya's 1/48 scale kit and Hobby Color acrylics to model the Bf 109E-4 of Luftwaffe ace Helmut Wick, who was shot down in November 1940 after his 56th victory. Although he was seen bailing out over the English Channel, he was never found.

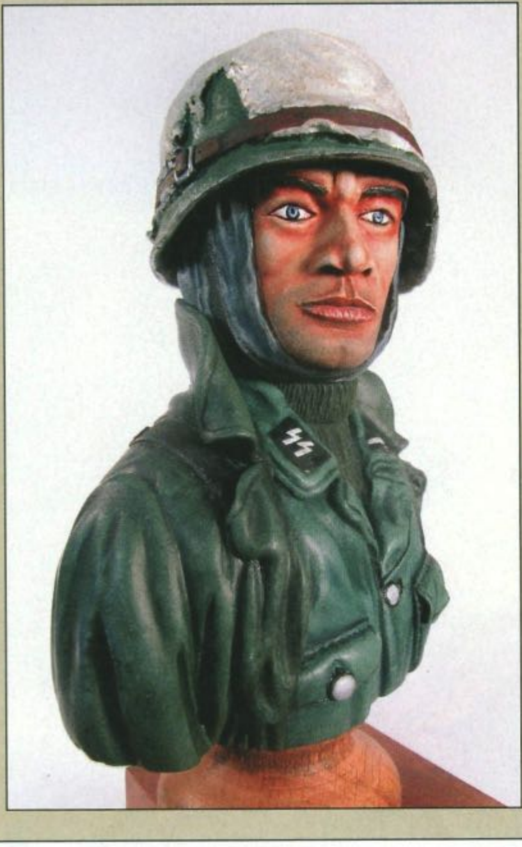


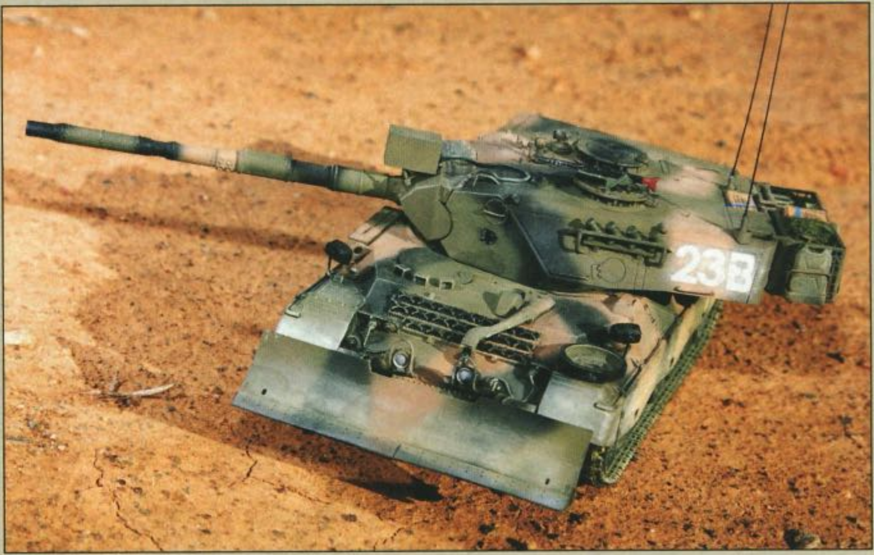


▲ DIETMAR CARSTENSEN
GOES, ZEELAND, NETHERLANDS
Dietmar studied a lot of photos to determine a waterline on Revell's 1/72 scale Type VIIC U-boat, then cut the hull with a circular blade in a motor tool. He also drilled out limber holes and replaced gun barrels with metal ones from Schatton. Eduard photoetched-metal details grace the deck, with radio antennas of .25mm copper wire. Tamiya weathering powders and Mig pigments gave the boat a lived-in look. Dietmar painted polystyrene foam and coated it with silicone that he sculpted into waves with a palette knife, painting the tips of waves with touches of white enamel.

◄ MAXIME LÉVESQUE
LAVAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
The diorama shows a disabled Sherman M4A3E8 (Dragon 1/35 scale Thunderbolt VIII) with figures from Dragon and Tamiya. The demolished building is from MiniArt. Maxime used Tamiya paints and detailed with artist's oils and pastels. The interior, roof, and furniture were built from balsa wood, styrene, and Sculpey, with cork for bricks.

Reader Gallery



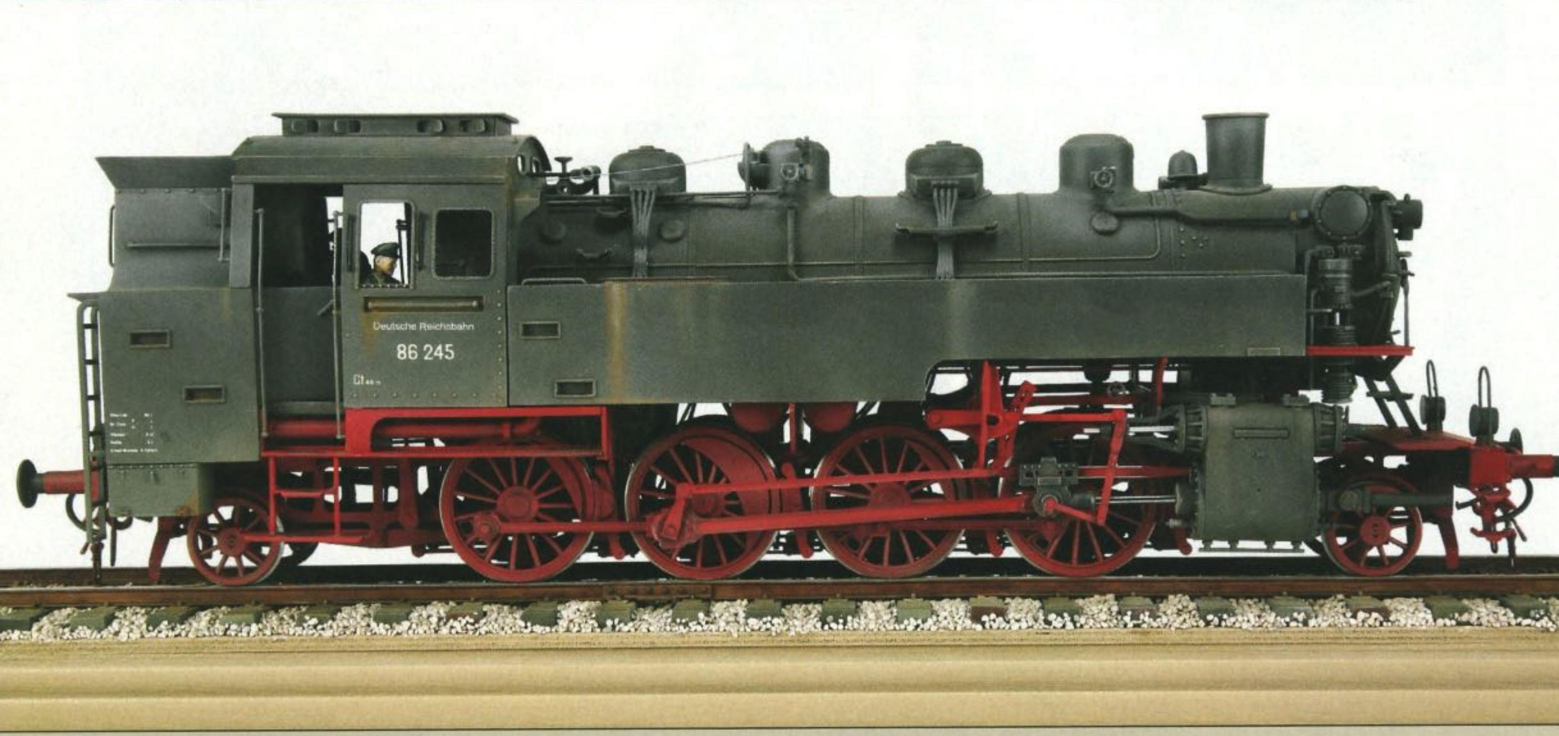


◄ ALAIN TISSEIRE
LIMOUX, FRANCE

Modeling MK35 Editions' 1/6 scale bust of a Waffen SS soldier during the Battle of the Bulge, Alain painted the uniform and equipment with Tamiya acrylics but used artist's oils on the face. "The base coat is a mixture of cadmium red, cadmium lemon, and white," he says. "The beard is a mixture of blue, white, and black."

▲ JOSHUA MAHER
WANGARATTA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

"This Leopard AS1 is from Tamiya's 1/35 scale Leopard A4 kit," Joshua says. Armour Bits' AS1 conversion set provided toolboxes, a turret basket, a wind sensor, a vision block forward of the commander cupola, jerry cans, aerial mounts, and grouser rack. "The Mouse House 'dozer set is posable and includes a mounting plate, blade, and armored cover for an electrical conduit," he says. "It's the same as used by Canadian C1 Leopards." Stowage and decals for the Australian 1st Armoured are also from Mouse House. The Australian olive drab is a White Ensign enamel.

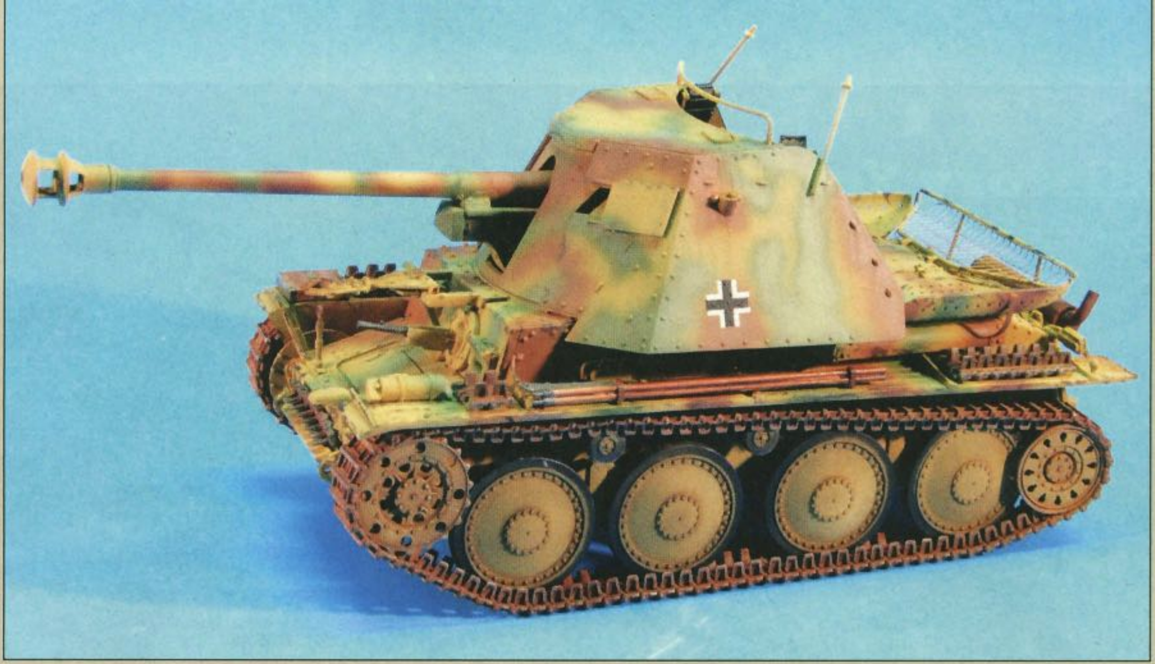


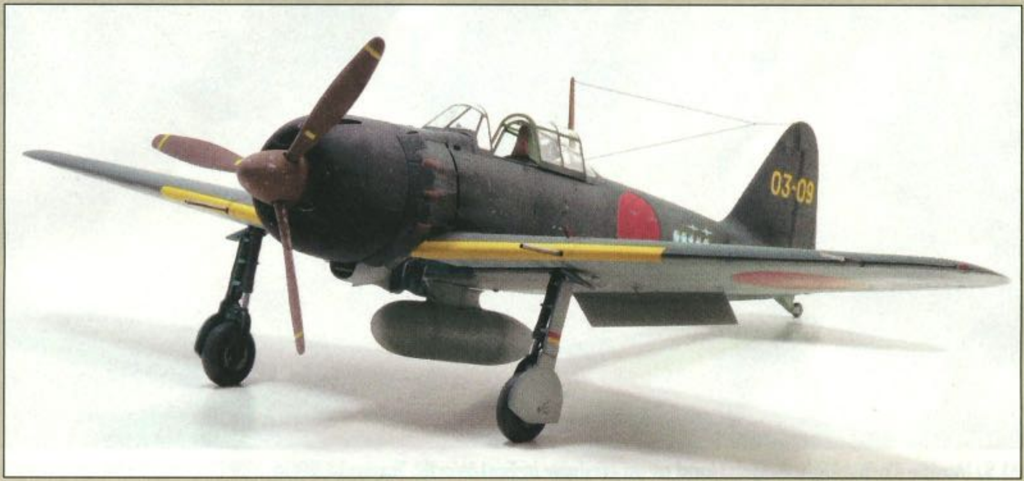
▲ CHUCK STEWART
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Chuck loaded Trumpeter's 1/35 scale Dampflokomotive BR 86 with a lot of little additions and modifications: individual ties and added ballast for the display base; chunks of real coal in the tender; six MV Products lenses; two crew figures; air lines; and a whistle rope. He finished with Polly Scale and Floquil paints plus silver Rub 'n' Buff, Alclad chrome, oil washes, dry-brushing, weathering powders, and a graphite pencil.

▶ NATHAN SHULTZ
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

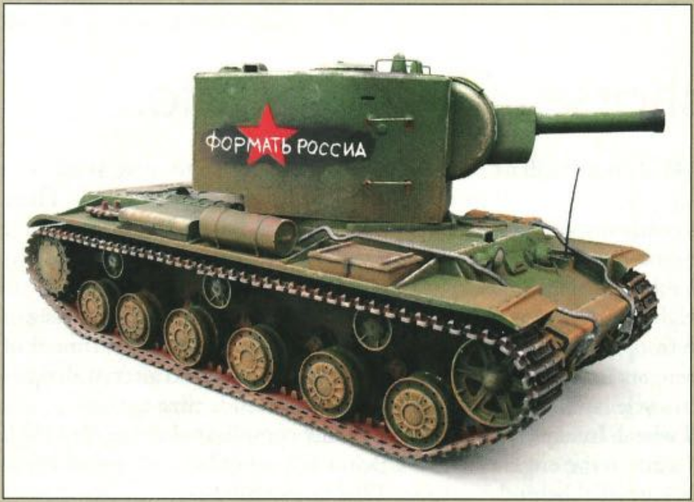
"This is a great kit!" says Nathan of Dragon's 1/35 scale Marder III. He airbrushed it with Tamiya acrylics, then applied Mig Productions' tri-tone filter and pigments. "I also tried out AK Interactive's mix for rain streaks," he says. Using Archer dry transfers, he marked the vehicle for Pz Jäg Abt 171, 17th Infantry, Italy, 1943.

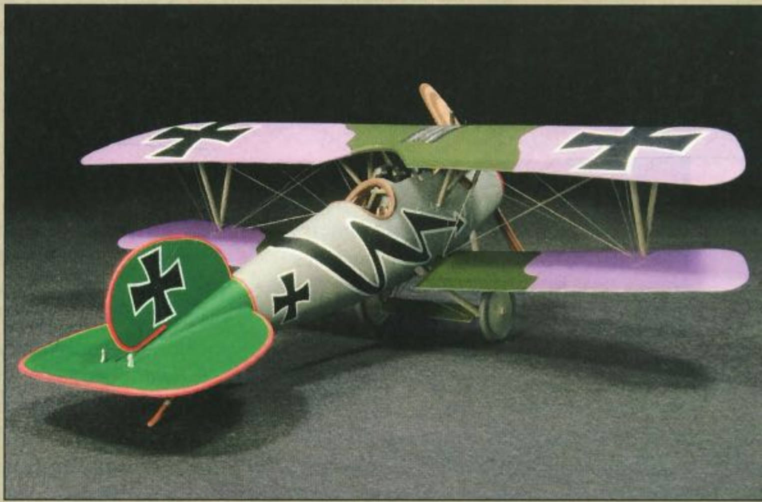




◀ MICHAEL WITKOWSKI
SMITHERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Michael received Tamiya's 1/48 scale A6M5 from his wife as a Christmas gift. He added wiring and some photoetched metal to the engine, scratchbuilt actuating mechanisms for the open cooling flaps, modeled brake lines with fine wire, and used lab-slide glass for the gunsight. He finished with Tamiya acrylics and Testors Model Master enamels, applying a mix of raw umber artist's oils and silver enamel with a fine brush for paint chips. Aeromaster decals mark the Zero as Japanese ace Takeo Tanimizu's mount in June 1945.





▲ WILLIAM ERDMANN
UNIVERSITY PARK, ILLINOIS

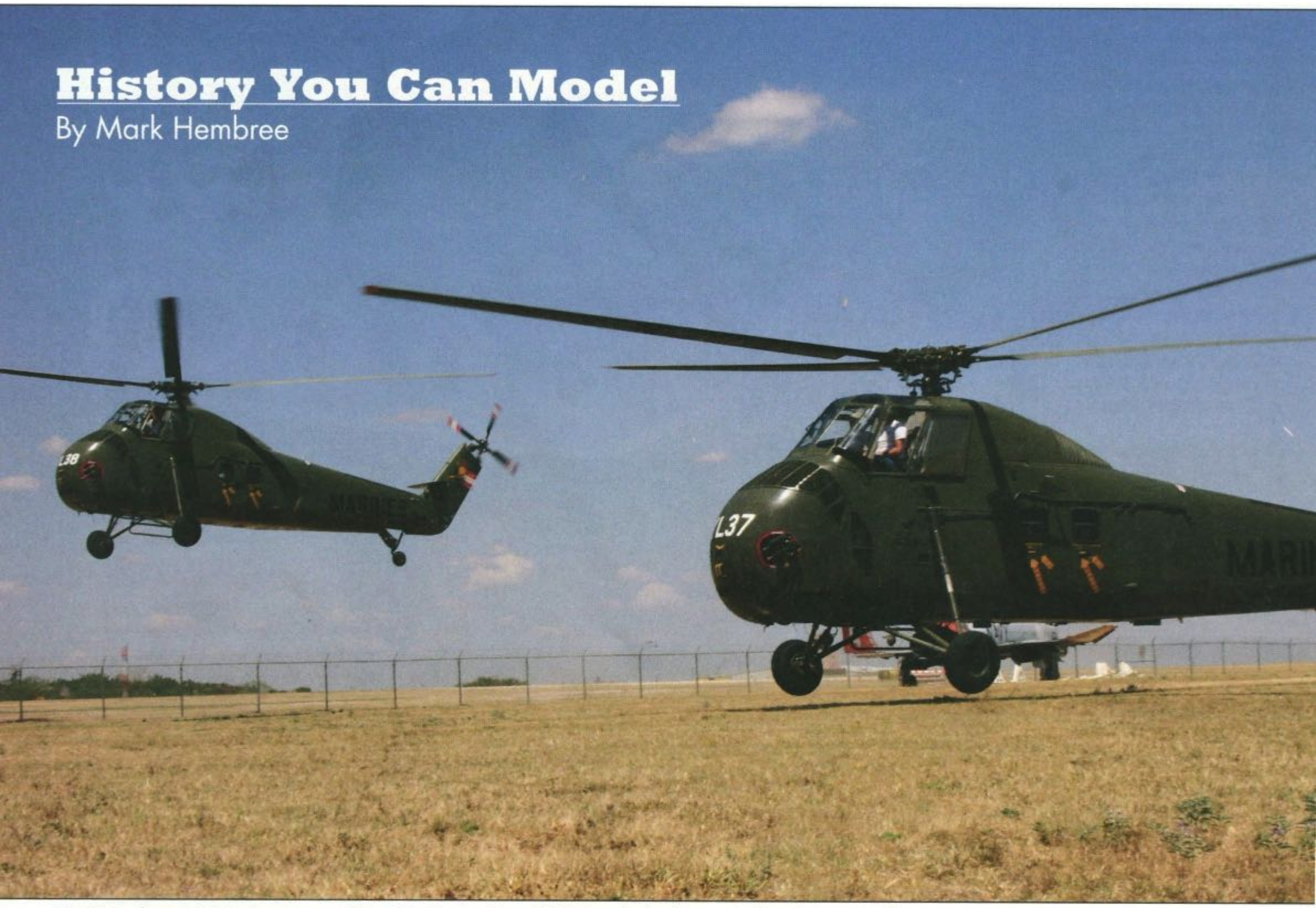
"I built Tamiya's 1/35 scale KV-2 more than 30 years ago and didn't even paint it," William says. Not long ago he pulled it off the shelf, painted it with Testors Model Master enamels, and treated the tracks with Rub 'n' Buff silver and Testors Model Master Acryl red earth. He replaced the grab handles with .020" brass tube.

▲ ROB WILSON
WOODBRIDGE, VIRGINIA

"I never had much luck with biplanes because of the rigging and that other danged wing," Rob says. "So I decided to relax and just try to have fun, keeping my expectations low and honing my skills." Eduard's 1/48 scale "Weekend Edition" Albatros D.V made that easier, he says. "There were a lot of delicate parts, but the model practically puts itself together. I used Testors Model Master enamels and a foot or two of Parafilm for the paint scheme." Rob rigged the German fighter with thin steel wire.

History You Can Model

By Mark Hembree



UH-34 Seahorses, Vietnam veterans of the U.S. Marine Corps' Ugly Angels, land at an airshow in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2006.

Sikorsky S-58: Seabat, Seahorse, Choctaw, etc.

Despite earlier accomplishments with large multi-engine, fixed-wing aircraft such as the Ilya Muromets and the Pan American Clipper, aeronautics genius Igor Sikorsky is most famous as the father of the helicopter. His R-4 was the first to enter full-scale production in significant numbers (more than 600 by the end of World War II).

Postwar advancements led to bigger helicopters. With the Korean War spurring further development, Sikorsky delivered the S-55, a 10-seat helicopter with a Pratt & Whitney radial engine in the nose under the pilot's feet. The Army and Air Force called it the H-19 Chickasaw. But as it appeared in other military branches, designations became an alphabet soup: The Navy called its first variant HO4S-1; the Marines called theirs HRS-2 and -3; and some of the Navy's HO4S-2s were built as HO4S-3G.

The S-55's direct descendant was the S-58. Longer and more powerful, with a four-blade main rotor, a roomier cabin, and a 1,525-horsepower Wright Cyclone engine, it could carry 16 troops, eight litters for wounded, or 12 passengers in airliner-style seating. The fixed tricycle landing gear included a swiveling tail wheel. Intake screens on the nose and a fan in the engine compartment cooled the big radial behind clamshell engine doors.

The pilot mounted via kicksteps on the fuselage side, entering through the side window. Passengers boarded through a sliding door on the starboard side. Because the cabin floor was 3' above ground, various styles of steps were built for passengers.

The S-58 was built as the XHSS-1 Seabat for the U.S. Navy to serve as an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) craft. The first production models, HSS-1, became operational in 1955.

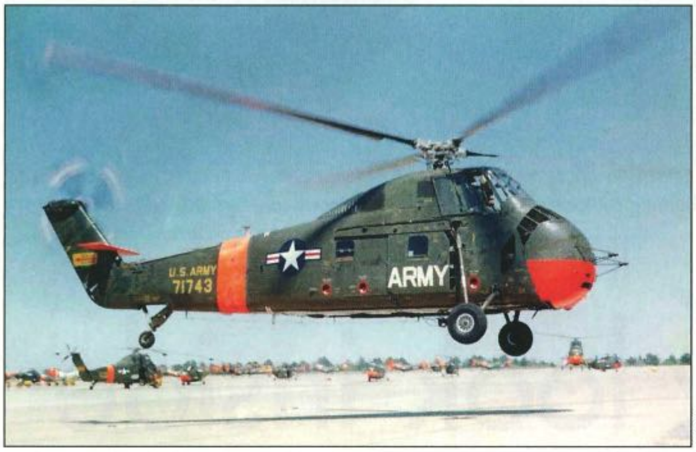
Again, as the S-58 spread across the armed forces, a bewildering array of designations ensued. In 1962, the Department of Defense instituted a unified aircraft designation system to standardize names — which actually complicated the trail of the S-58. Below is a list of basic designations (post-1962 in parentheses):

- HSS-1 Seabat (SH-34, ASW; LH-34, winterized); U.S. Navy
- HUS-1 Seahorse (UH-34, HH-34); U.S. Marines, U.S. Coast Guard
- H-34 Choctaw (CH-34, HH-34); U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force
- VH-34; VIP transport

And that doesn't even cover the many

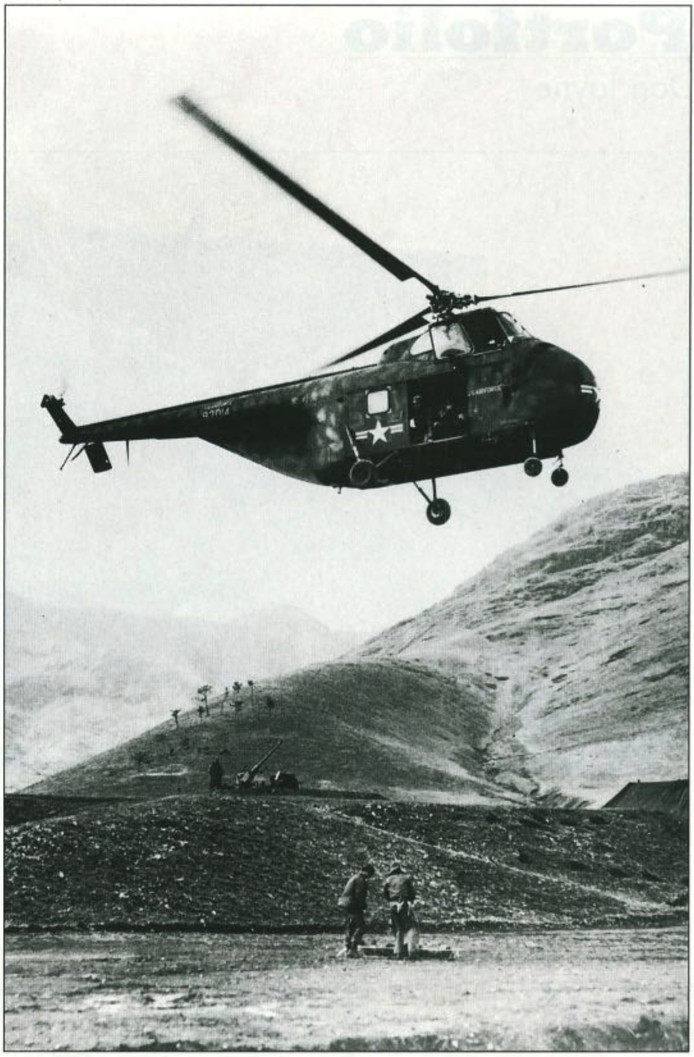
U.S. Coast Guard

Designer Igor Sikorsky tries out a sling on his R-4 (HNS-1) with U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Frank Erickson at the controls in August 1944.



U.S. Army

Making its first flight in 1954, the Sikorsky S-58 was a versatile airframe known by many designations across all branches of the American military. This is U.S. Army CH-34C Choctaw No. 57-1743.


U.S. Air Force

Forebear of the S-58, the H-19 Chickasaw appeared in time for the Korean War. This one is picking up a stretcher; note the helicopter's camouflage and a 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun in the background.

U.S. Marine Corps

variants of each. Additionally, it was built under license as the Wessex by British manufacturer Westland, which installed a gas turbine engine. It was produced in 1959 for the Royal Navy, first as an ASW craft and later as a commando transport.

By any name, the S-58 proved a vastly versatile airframe, evolving from its ASW role to serve as a capable cargo transport able to lift hefty loads suspended underneath. Inflatable bladders — "doughnuts" — or pontoons could make it amphibious. And it was the first helicopter authorized as a U.S. presidential transport.

After the FAA certified a 12-passenger version for airlines in 1956, S-58s were flown by Chicago Helicopter Airways, New York Airways, and Sabena, the Belgian national airline.

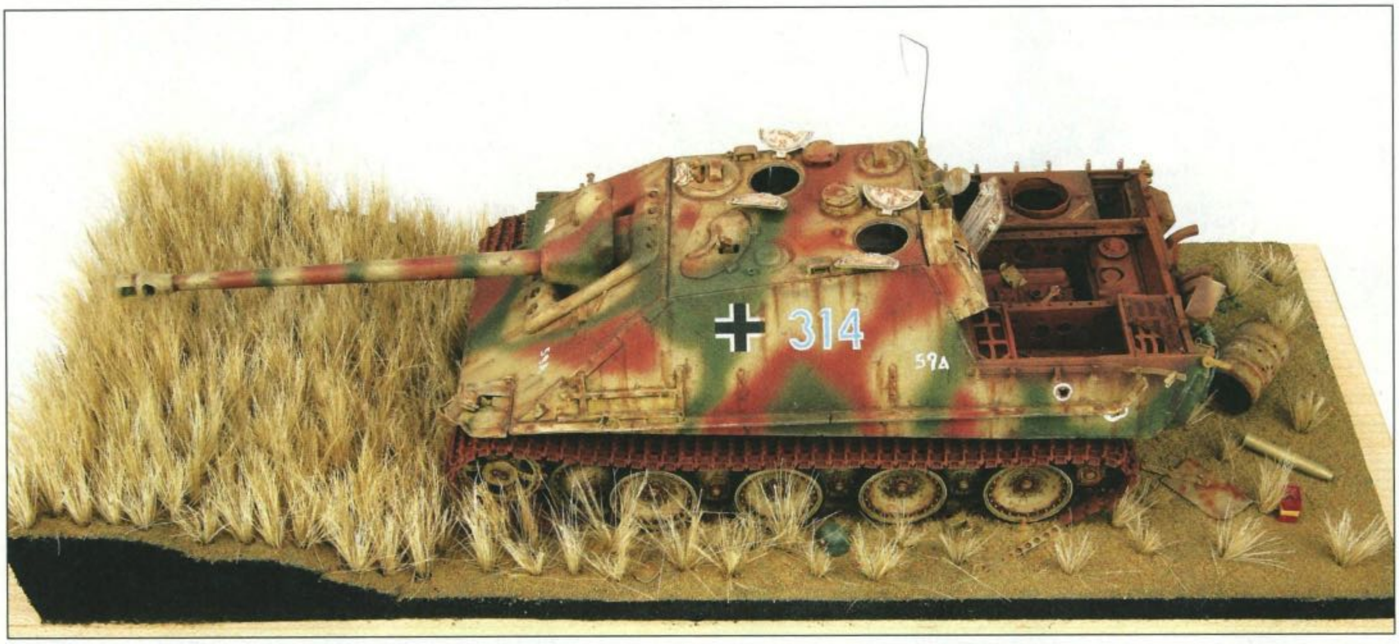
But the S-58 is best remembered in the search and rescue role, on land and at sea. It played a starring role in the Mercury space program, recovering both the capsule and the astronaut (except when Virgil Grissom's *Liberty Bell* 7 sank). And nearing the end of its combat career, it earned the gratitude of many soldiers in Vietnam as pilots flew into fire to rescue them — no small act of bravery considering the excellent visibility the pilot's position provided to enemy gunners.

During remarks *Time* magazine reported in April 1966, Sikorsky, then 76, said, "Now, as an old man and as a designer, I am pleased most that altogether the helicopter has saved more than 100,000 persons from death" through rescue and supporting work in Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and many peacetime disasters.

It's a legacy that would make any father proud. **FSM**

Modeling the S-58

- 1/72: Frog (Wessex Mk.1); Eastern Express (ex-Frog); HobbyBoss (UH-34A); Italeri (UH-34D, J; Wessex HAS.3, HU.5); Matchbox (Wessex HU.5, HAS.31); Novo (Ex-Frog); Revell (H-34G); Revell Germany (H-34G, HAS.3); Tamiya (HSS-1, ex-Italeri)
- 1/48: Revell Germany (H-34G, Wessex HAS.3, Queen's Flight)
- 1/32: Combat Models (S-58, vacuum-formed)



Dragon's Jagdpanther Ausf G got a scratchbuilt engine, engine compartment, fighting compartment, and Eduard photoetched metal before Dan beat it up.

Taking a new look inside

Cutaway artist finds inspiration in destruction

PHOTOS BY CHUCK STEWART

Master modeler Dan Jayne is best known to *FSM* readers for his exquisitely detailed aircraft cutaways.

Inspired by the work of Milan Kosek in *Inside & Out — A Modeller's Guide to Improve Scale Model Kits No. 2 — Why Don't I Build Standard Kits — Milan Kosek's 1/35 Scale Wreckage Collection* (WWP, ISBN 978-80-86416-32-8), Dan set out to build his own collection with extra detailing and scratchbuilding. For him, these 10 dioramas were a challenge and represented a fascinating time at the end of the war when smashed and abandoned German war machines littered the battlefield.

"Examining these mangled steel wrecks can really bring home the destructive nature of war," Dan says. "Sure, a German Tiger looks cool with its huge 88mm gun. But what does it look like after being struck by a 150mm round?"

With blown apart hulls exposing much of the vehicles' innards, Dan painted and weathered those areas first using a buff base coat and acrylic washes and powdered pastels.

He base-coated the exteriors with Testors Model Master spray-can Africa mustard, then applied a heavy wash of raw umber artist's oils.

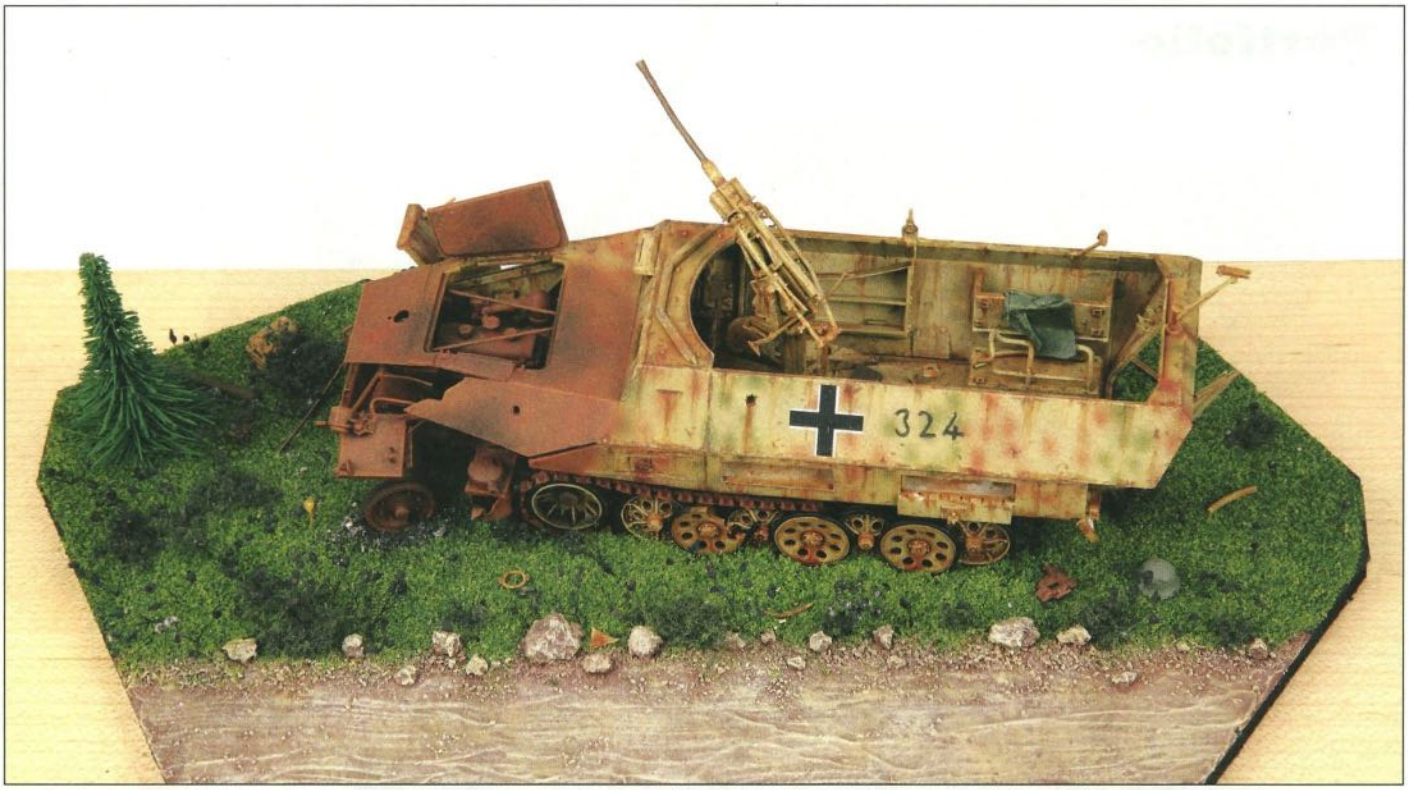
"I wash the entire vehicle — all areas — rotating the model so I can keep the washed areas as flat as possible, waiting for each area to dry before rotating to another area," Dan says.

The next step was dry-brushing, first with Model Master British gulf light stone, then a mix of equal parts light stone and ANA 616 sand. Finally, Dan lightly dry-brushed straight sand.

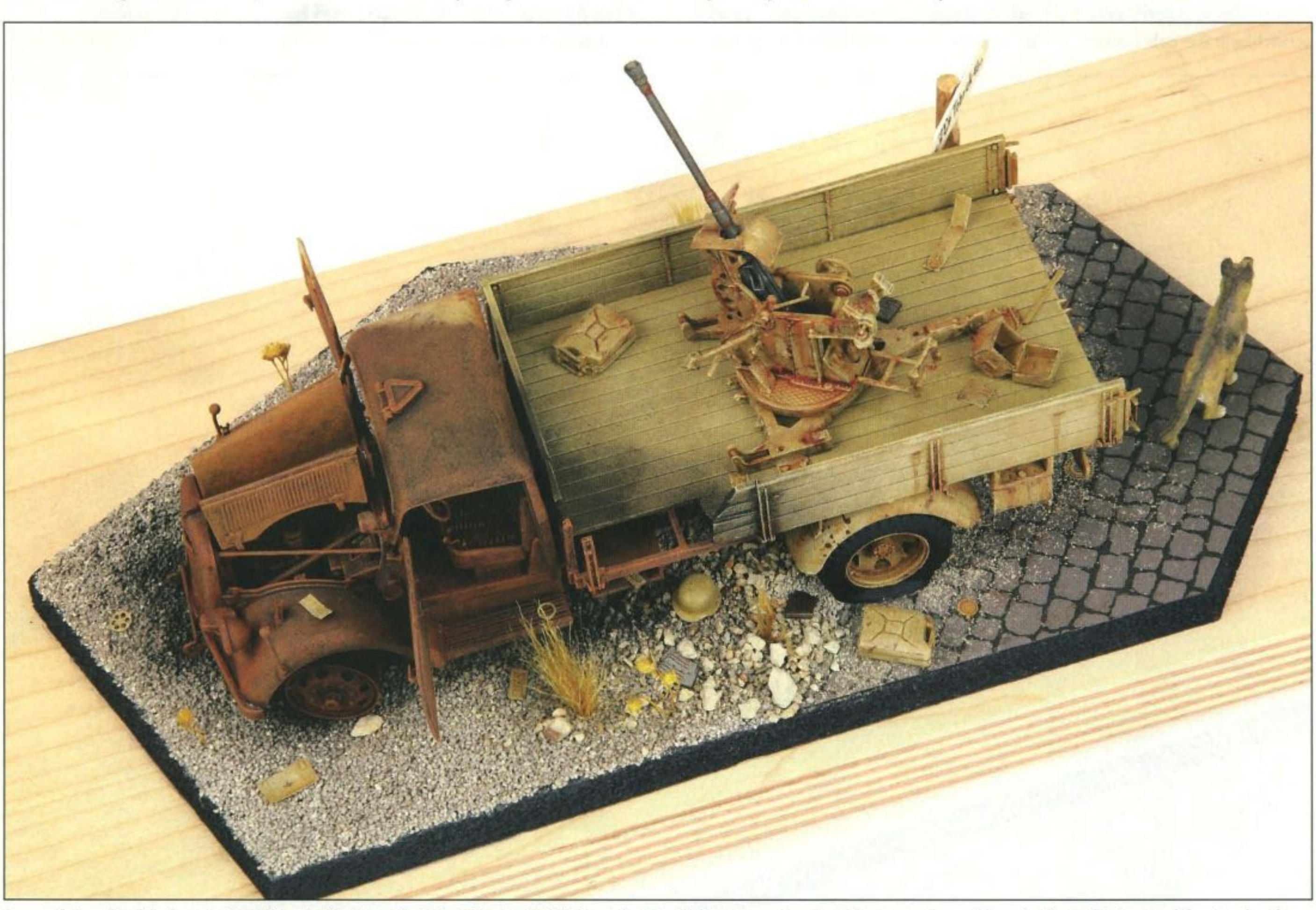
He airbrushed camouflage colors next, then added decals. A tidy paint job was not a priority because the vehicles were going to be heavily damaged and weathered. He painted the areas of the hulls that were meant to look completely burned with a 1:1 mix of Model Master rust and flat black, then dry-brushed Model Master rust and brown, blending the scorched areas into the camouflage. Finer rust was added with acrylic dark brown and rust colors applied with a fine brush. Finally, Dan brushed on black and rust pastels and sealed the finish with Testors Dullcote.

Dan used scrap lumber and insulating foam for the display bases. After cutting the foam to suit individual vehicles, and painting the edges flat black, he brushed on a thick layer of white glue and sprinkled on Woodland Scenics grass or gravel. Weeds and debris added visual interest and depth to the scenes.

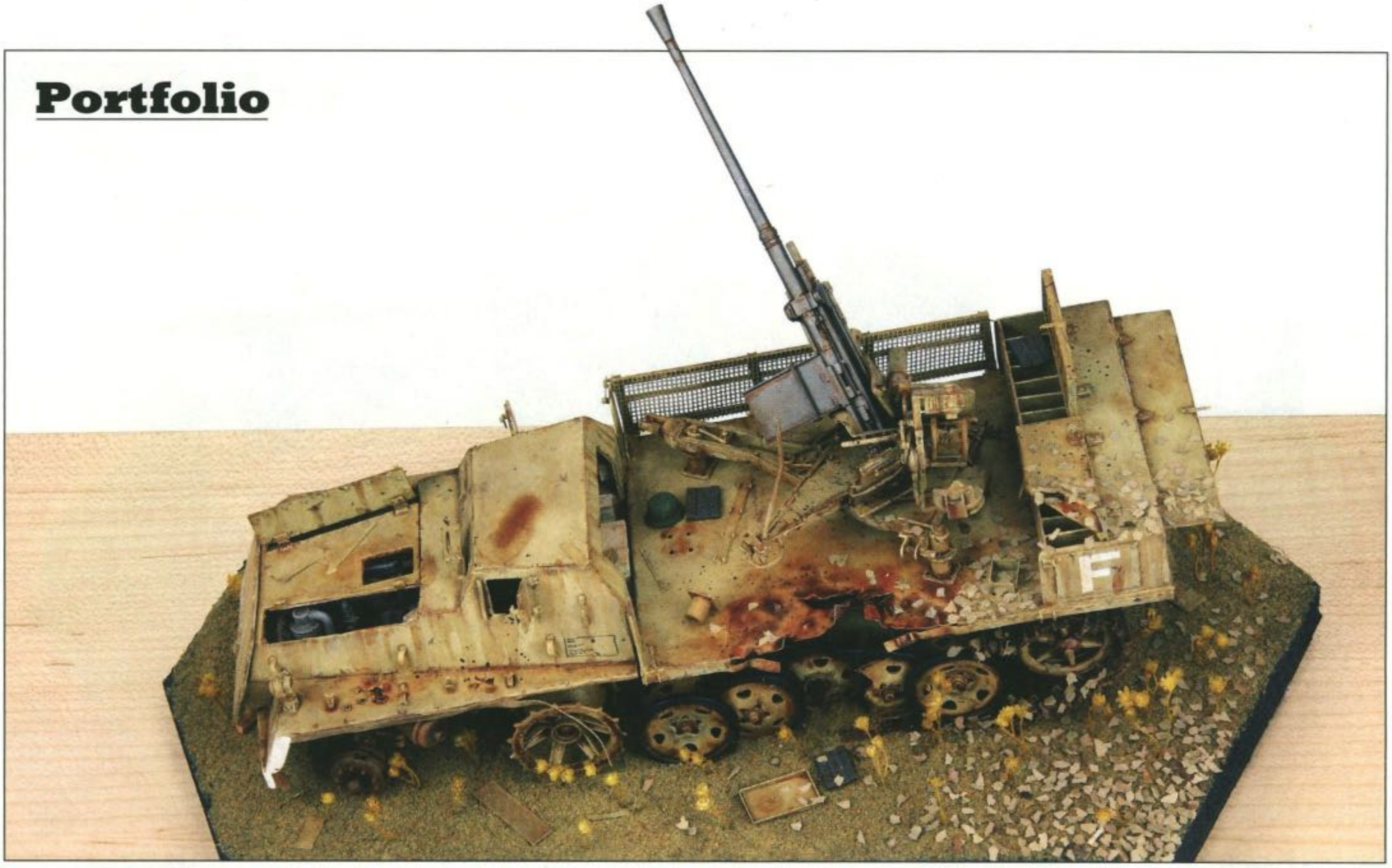
"Celluclay mud, paintbrush bristles for tall grass, dried flowers, segments of Tamiya's cobblestone pavement — the list is endless," Dan says. "There's no end to your creativity, and you don't have to throw a lot of money into it."



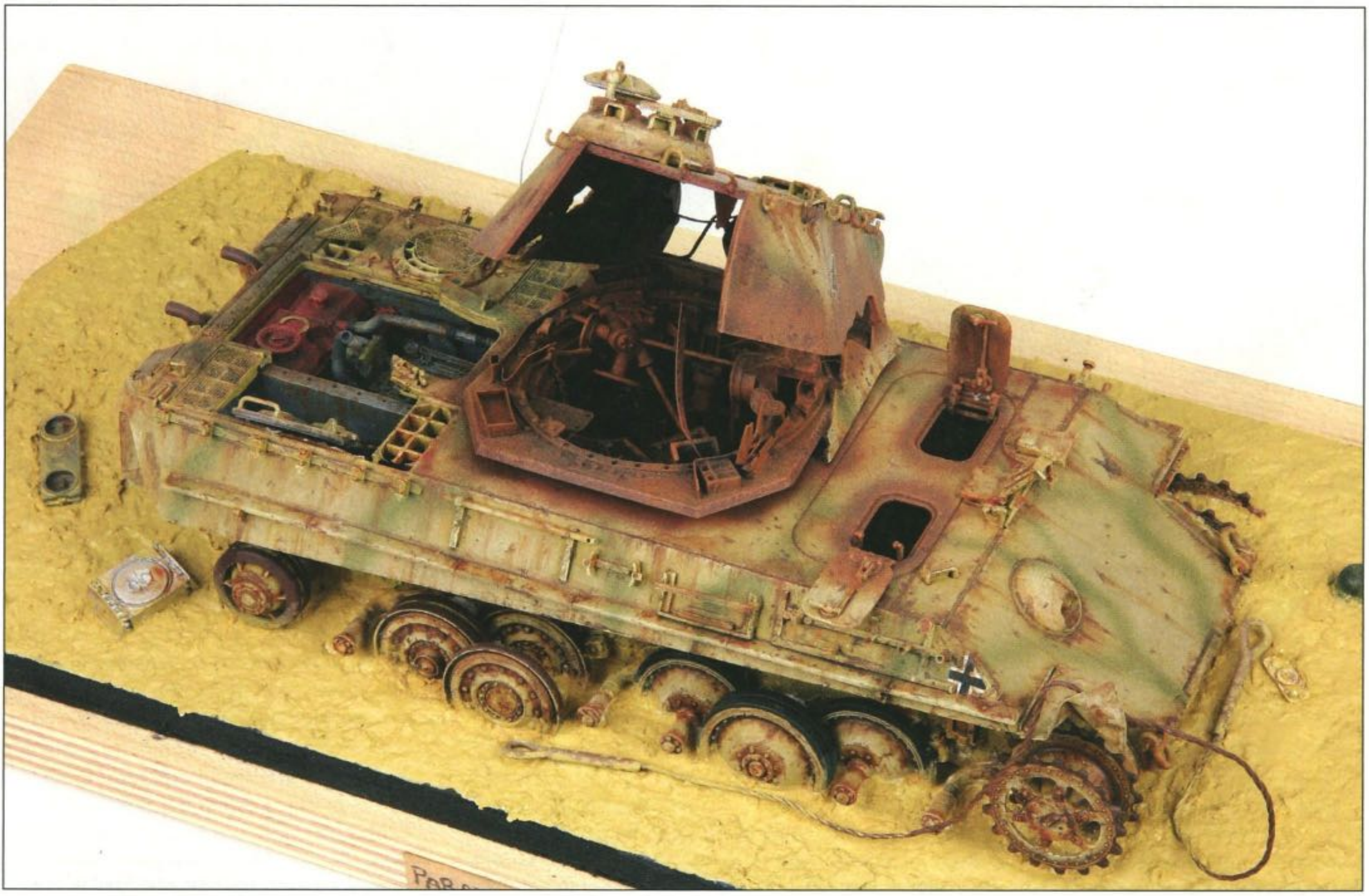
Dan built Dragon's SdKfz 251/17 Ausf D with a Tamiya engine and scratchbuilt engine bay as well as Eduard photoetched metal and tin sheet.



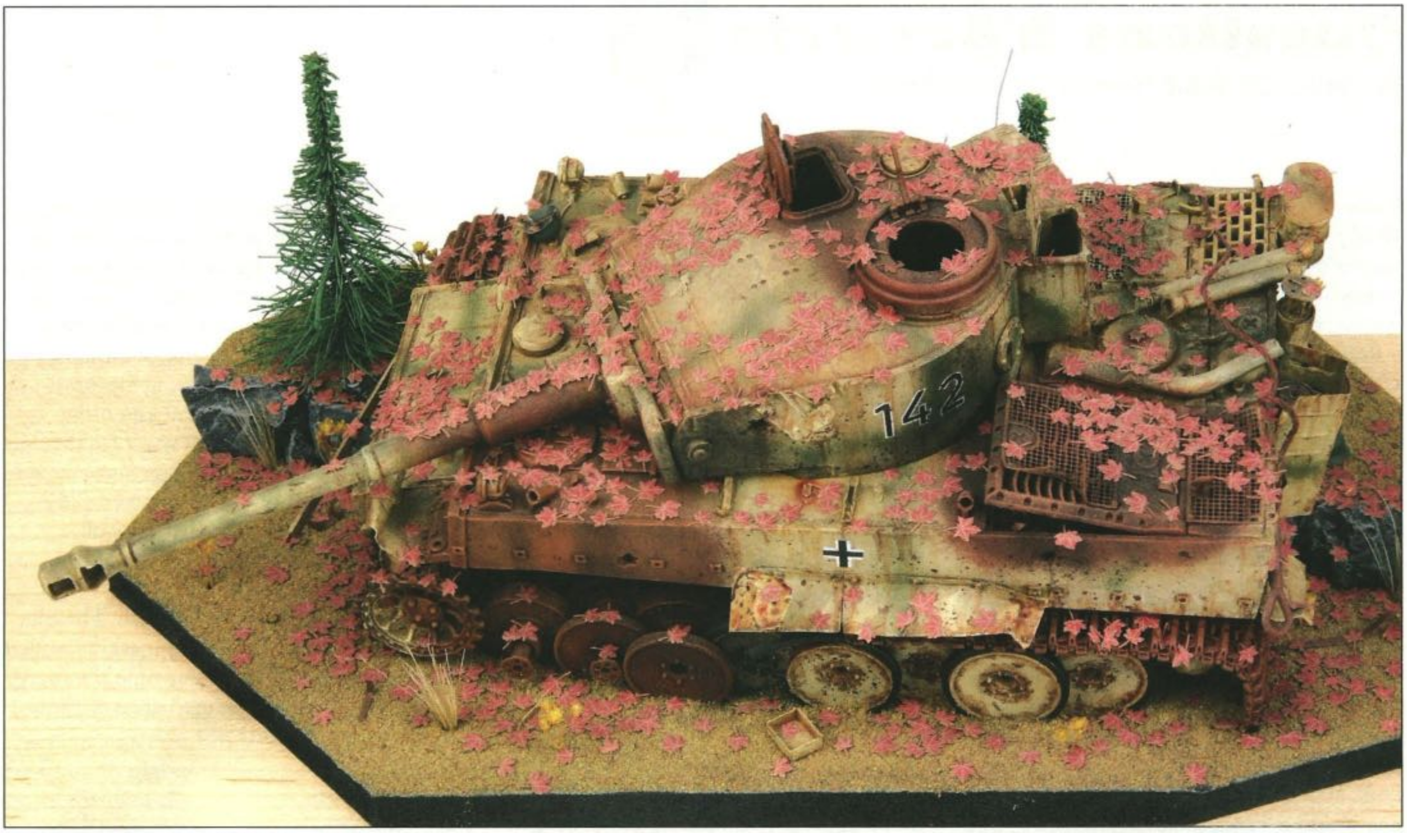
To model a disabled anti-aircraft vehicle, Dan detailed Tamiya's 1/35 scale Opel Blitz cargo truck with an engine, drive shaft, radiator, and front wheels from Italeri's Blitz. He detailed with Eduard photoetched metal, scratchbuilt the engine bay, and added wood planks to the bed. The PaK 40 30/38 gun and mount are from Esci. Dan modeled flattened rear tires with epoxy putty.



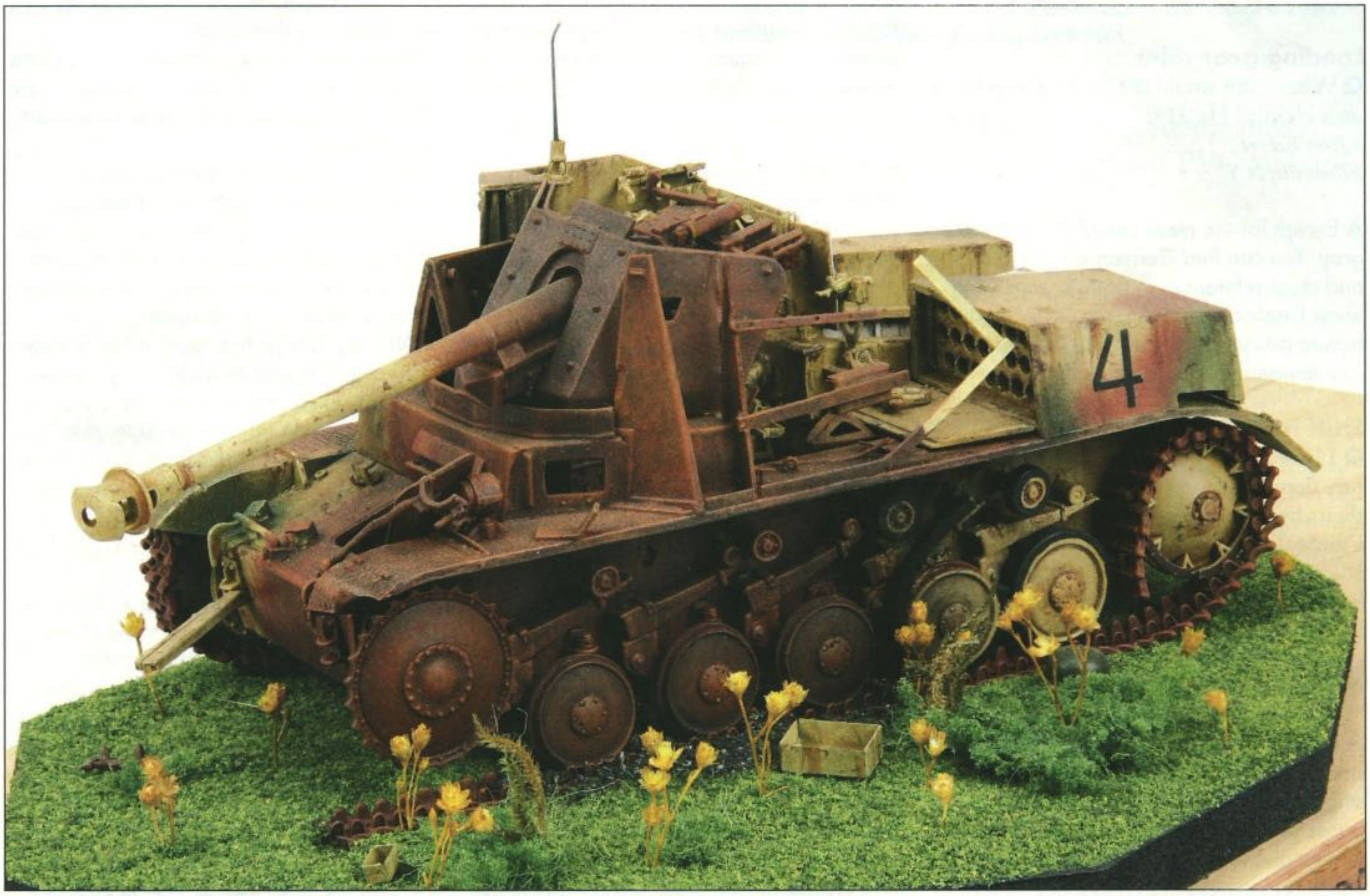
Dan modified Italeri's sWS halftrack to mount a 37mm FlaK gun. He added a Calibre 35 resin engine, tin fenders, and Eduard photoetched metal, and scratchbuilt the cab interior and a cargo bed complete with drop gates. The gun and mount are from Tamiya.



Beginning with Dragon's 1/35 Panther Ausf G kit, Dan added CMK resin-cast interior details, a Verlinden engine and engine compartment, and Eduard photoetched-metal details.



Starting with Academy's 1/35 scale Tiger I, Dan added a Verlinden interior and engine compartment, Eduard photoetched metal, and tin fenders. He covered the desolate scene with Plus Models maple leaves.



Dan's mangled Marder II started as a Dragon kit. He added scratchbuilt detail to the fighting compartment, as well as a CMK resin engine and Eduard photoetched metal. FSM

Questions & Answers

A clinic for your modeling problems

By Mark Hembree

Fuse wire

Q Modeling magazines and videos I've seen sometimes recommend 3- and 5-amp fuse wire for details. What is fuse wire, and where can I get it?
– Roger Campbell
Cheyenne, Wyo.

A Fuse wire is made from an alloy that melts at a relatively low temperature and overheats to this temperature when carrying a particular value of overload current — that's when you blow a fuse. The lower the amperage, the finer the gauge of wire.

You can buy fuse wire at hardware and electrical supply stores.

However, depending on the scale and the application, you can also use filaments from a lamp cord or wire from the innards of a telephone (with or without the insulation). I used fine solder wire to model a gas line inside a 1/48 scale Bf 109 I built, and another gauge of solder wire for brake lines on the same aircraft. I don't have specific gauges for you — I eyeballed it.

Landing gear color

Q What color would the landing gear be on a Heinkel He 219?
– John Eckert
Ellenville, N.Y.

A Except for the oleos I would use RLM 02 gray. You can find German aircraft colors and cross references to paint brands at www.FineScale.com. Search "RLM" in our how-to articles and you'll find "*Reichsluftfahrtministerium* (RLM) Luftwaffe colors."

Stuff for decals

Q I have recently started to use Pledge Future floor polish to set decals and gloss over them, but then I saw a "how-to" video on FineScale.com and you guys were using Micro Sol solution. Is there a difference or benefit to using Micro Sol instead of Pledge, or vice versa?
– Cameron Kirkland
Noblesville, Ind.

A Future is a clear gloss that can provide a smooth, receptive bed for decals; the smoother the surface, the better the adhesion. As an overcoat, Future can seal the decal and provide a more uniform finish.

Micro Sol is not a finish but a solution that actually softens the decal film, allowing it to conform to the shapes under it (rivets, recessed panel lines, etc.). Careful with Micro Sol, though — it's strong stuff that can eat some decals alive. Test it on a nonused decal of the same set to make sure you don't get such an overreaction.

So, Future and Micro Sol are different things. One's not better than the other, nor are they mutually exclusive. You can use one or both.

WE HUMANS VARY QUITE A BIT

Primer directives

Q After resin parts are all cleaned, what is the best type of primer to use?
– John Borgerding
Beloit, Wis.

A You have lots of choices for primer; it's a matter of personal preference. Some people use gray automotive primer, which can be pretty aggressive on plastic but does give pretty good "bite" for good adhesion. Works fine on resin. A big can of auto primer is cheaper than the stuff I like, Tamiya fine-surface primer. I find the Tamiya primer works equally well under enamels or acrylics, and I like the way it draws up tight around details.

Paint it like wood

Q I am building Emhar's 1/72 scale ninth-century Viking ship and looking for suggestions on how to best simulate wood planking. I plan on replacing the plastic mast with actual wood spars and the plastic sail with a cloth one, but the plastic hull will look kind of cheesy next to the wooden mast and spars. Any help?
– Stephen Winchell
Queensbury, N.Y.

A Some modelers enhance the look of wood grain by scribing more texture into the surface along the lines of the "grain." Keep it random, and be careful not to overdo. A dark wash after painting will enhance the grain texture.

Painting can go a long way toward producing the look of wood. One way that works well for lighter colored, varnished wood is a coat of Testors tan or leather overcoated with Tamiya clear orange. You can sand the orange coat back a little and it leaves you with a little more grain and a nice replication of wood. Different base colors also can produce different types of "wood." In particular, Vallejo has several different wood colors — weathered, etc. — that look really good to me (and they are excellent paints to hand-brush). Experiment with different hues and sheens.

For more on faux wood finishes, see "Simulate a wood finish," by Rafe Morrissey, in the April 2011 *FSM*. You can order back issues at www.FineScale.com or by calling customer service at 800-533-6644 (262-796-8776 international).

Blue tape blues

Q I am new to using an airbrush. The blue 3M painter's tape I used for masking pulled paint up with it. (I did not prime the model.) How do I mask painted areas without removing that paint?
– Paul Stewart
Richmond, Va.

A It's hard for me to tell without seeing the paint job, but here's a checklist of tips:
- Priming the model should improve the adhesion of further paints.
- Make sure paint is completely dry before applying tape to it — wait at least a couple of days. It may be dry to the touch yet not completely cured.
- Take up the tape as soon as you can safely handle the model after painting.
- 3M painter's tape is pretty sticky; if I use it, I like to put it down on something clean (like a sheet of glass) and pick it up a few times to weaken the adhesive.
- Also, try Tamiya thin tape; it has a milder adhesive, it burnishes nicely, and it easily conforms to curved surfaces, etc.
- When you do remove the tape, don't pull it straight up (perpendicular to the surface) — stay low to the surface and slowly pull the tape back over itself.

Slight scale differences

Q I'm interested in modeling 1/72 scale armor and vehicles. However, some of the kits that interest me are only available in 1/76 scale. How much difference is there between the two scales?
– Carl Boon
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

A The smaller the scale, the smaller the differences. Many modelers get away with using 1/32 scale figures and 1/35 scale vehicles. So, small differences can sometimes be swept under the workbench, especially in the case of figures; you would probably notice the difference in two vehicles side by side, but we humans vary quite a bit.

The differences between 1/72 and 1/76 scale would only be half as much — pretty small. Say a vehicle is 20' long. To calculate scale, convert to inches and divide by the scale denominator: 240 ÷ 72 = 3.33". In 1/76 scale (240 ÷ 76), the same vehicle will be 3.12". That difference isn't obvious (at least to honest people) and it shouldn't keep you from building in both scales.

Nontoxic glue

Q My 5-year-old son is interested in building models with me. We have built several snap kits together, but the time has come to move on to gluing pieces together. Obviously, many of the modeling glues are too toxic for him. What is the best glue product that kids can use?
– Paul Szumski
Easthampton, Mass.

A True, many styrene cements are kind of nasty. Ventilation — with a fan blowing across the work area — should keep fumes away.

But Testors and others make nontoxic styrene cement, too, in tube gel or liquid form. And you can try something like Testors clear parts cement. It's similar to white glues (such as Elmer's). Also, take a look at similar craft glues (like Alene's) available at craft stores. And there's a bonus with the "white glues" — they can be cleaned up with water. As a former child who ruined several TV trays with pools and strings of tube glue, I can tell you this is a plus in the household.

Dry-brushing defined

Q I'm newly returned to modeling after 24 years off. I would like to know, what is dry-brushing?
– Desmond Campbell
Portstewart, Londonderry, Northern Ireland

A Dry-brushing is using an almost-dry brush to lightly touch high spots and edges, setting them in greater relief. For instance, on an instrument panel with raised dials, you can paint the panel one color, then come back with a contrasting color and very lightly brush the raised surfaces. Just a little bit of paint will be imparted to only the raised surfaces; like magic, bezels and dials will appear!

That's just one example. There are more available in articles on our website, some for free (basic techniques), some available only to subscribers. And while you're on the site, take a look at our scale-modeling glossary for other terms.

How to correct your Future

Q Aaaa! I'm building an Kaman H-43 Huskie and I'm scratchbuilding most of the interior. I used Pledge Future floor polish to seal the front windscreen. After a couple of days drying, I noticed the Future had pooled in one of the corners. I thought if I soaked the windscreen in water I could start again. O horrors! It came out all cloudy! I used a fingernail to see if it was easy to remove. On the outside, yes, but on the inside it seemed like it was sprayed with a primer.

Will I have to use fine sandpaper to remove it all and polish it back to clarity, or do you know some wizard's magic?
– Paul Szumski
Easthampton, Mass.

A No wizardry here: If you soak the piece in Windex, gently remove Future, and repeat, you should be able to get all the Future off. Windex will cut through Future. After that you may have some minor polishing, but if you get the Future off and reapply it your windscreen should look spiffy again. **FSM**

Mark Büchler's homemade tool caddy made par in the May 2008 *FSM*.

Working on the workbench

Q You had an article on how to build a brush and tool organizer for your workbench using various sizes and lengths of PVC tubing. Is this article still available?
– Bert Self, Loveland, Colo.

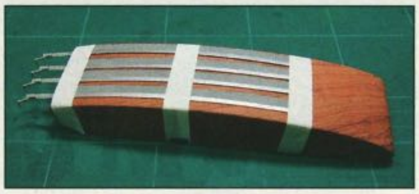
A I believe the article you're looking for was called "Organize your workbench" in the May 2008 *FSM*. You can order back issues at www.FineScale.com or by calling customer service at 800-533-6644 (262-796-8776 international). And keep an eye on Reader Tips, where ideas for your workspace abound.

Reader Tips

Solutions and innovations

By Aaron Skinner

Introducing blade droop with heat



Karl straps helicopter blades to a curved block of wood and heats them with a hair dryer to get just the right droop.

I usually droop helicopter rotor blades by pulling them through my thumb and index finger at an angle. But some kits are made from very springy or brittle plastic, so that doesn't always work. For those challenging blades, I made a smoothly curved block of wood to use as a bending jig. I use three paper strips to secure the blades tightly to the jig, then use a blow dryer set on high to induce the bend. It takes about five minutes, moving the nozzle of the dryer constantly to evenly heat all the blades. The blades are left in the jig to cool to room temp before removing. Using only two paper strips will allow the middle portion of the blades to rise up and bend unevenly. So three is good for a 1/72 scale model. Use more strips for longer blades.

– Karl Juelch
Asbury, N.J.

97
W.Nr. 13596

Bill mottled a Messerschmitt by applying paint with a makeup sponge held with tweezers.

Makeup sponge for mottled paint

Try using a sponge to obtain a realistic mottled paint effect. Very small (unused) makeup sponges work perfectly. Tear off a little piece, then, holding it in a pair of tweezers or a hemostat, dip it in paint. Remove excess paint from the sponge by blotting it on paper. Then dab it against the aircraft in the pattern called for in the instructions.

– Bill Wells
Allentown, Pa.

Chip-package optics

You've probably seen potato-chip bags with an interior that looks like chrome. The chrome surface is perfect for periscope lenses on armored vehicles. Cut out a section and wipe it with alcohol to remove the grease. Measure the periscope face, trim sheet styrene to match, then super glue the package foil to the styrene, shiny-side out. Let it dry for a few minutes, brush on some Tamiya clear green, and attach it to the model. You can also use this foil for mirror faces and headlights.

– Ernesto Urtiaga
Simpsonville, S.C.

Tape reinforces pattern

There will be a time in model building when you have to cut plastic or metal screens for your model. The instructions may provide a pattern for you to use, but you really don't want to cut up your instructions.

Here's what I do: I make a copy of the pattern, then cover it with Scotch tape. The tape makes the pattern firmer, so when you lay it on the screen or plastic you are cutting out the pattern lays flat, stays firm, and makes it easier for you to cut out the piece you need.

– Michael A. Morrison
Elk Grove Village, Ill.

Future as foil adhesive

I found an effective foil adhesive while building Monogram's StreetFighter. I wanted to make the interior of the large taillights reflective, so I used kitchen foil and attached it with Pledge Future floor polish, which is sticky and perfectly transparent.

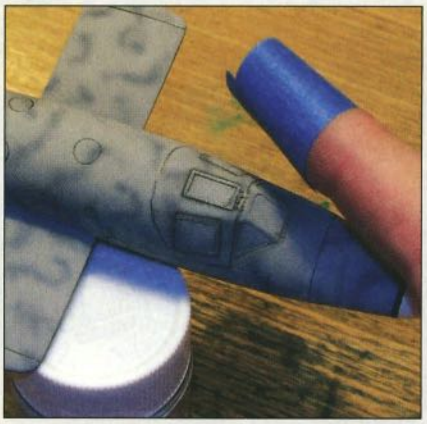
– Steve Causey
Morrison, Colo.

Beyond dry-fitting

As all modelers soon find out, dry-fitting parts is critical to minimizing filling and sanding for proper fit.

While updating my World War I biplane collection, I took dry-fitting to another level. For lack of a better term, I call it a "wet build." I begin construction using tried and true Elmer's glue. This primary build reveals imperfections with the struts, landing gear, and wing alignment. Corrections can then be made before permanent gluing begins. The glued parts can be disassembled by prying them apart; soaking them in warm water will dissolve

Taping off a wash?



Jason accidently discovered that he could clean up excess artist's oil wash with masking tape.

Removing an oil-based wash isn't always as easy as you would like. For example, rivet holes really stand out when you deepen them with a dark wash, but removing the wash around them is nearly impossible without removing too much. Sometimes I have to apply the wash several times before I get it right.

Here's a trick I figured out by accident. I had finished a wash application about an hour earlier and was removing some lint with a piece of Scotch blue painter's tape wrapped around my finger. When I pressed and removed the lint around the rivets and raised detail on the windscreen of my Bachem Natter, I also lifted the wash on all the raised detail without losing one single darkened rivet. Make sure you rotate the tape — otherwise you risk pressing paint back onto the model. Don't press too hard either, or you will lift the base coat.

– Jason Morales
Skara, Sweden

stubborn bonds. This wet build will also give insights on potential painting issues. For those of us who think building is the best part of modeling, this process doubles your fun. You build the kit twice!

– George Zupko
San Francisco, Calif.

Airbrush cleaning on a roll

I used to clean my airbrush by filling the paint cup with thinner and spraying it into an old rag. Now, I use a 3-pound metal coffee can. First, I cut a hole in the top about the size of a quarter. Then, I take a roll of cheap toilet paper, remove the inside cardboard roller, and place the toilet paper in the coffee can. After snapping the lid into place, I fill the paint cup with thinner and spray it into the can. When the paper is saturated, I simply turn the roll over and spray some more. When both sides are saturated, I toss it. This reduces overspray and keeps your airbrushing area clean!

– Randy Robbins
Canyon Country, Calif.

Super-easy wingtip lights

Most of us know it can be difficult to cut small, clear wingtip lights off the sprue. They often go flying, never to be found. Fitting them can be just as difficult.

I replaced them on a 1/32 scale P-38 with Gorilla impact-resistant super glue; any thick super glue should work. I squeezed a few drops of glue onto aluminum foil. Using the tip of a knife, I picked up a bead of glue and let it run into the small hole for the lens. It formed a near perfect dome, dried clear, and there was little or no shrinkage. I've found it may require a couple of applications to get right.

– Mark Kimmel
Trenton, N.J.

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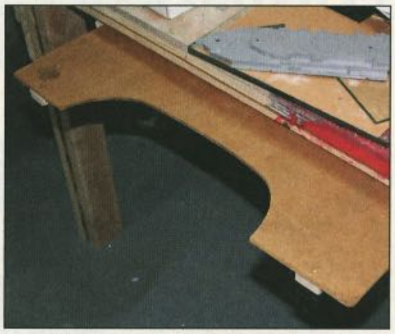
Send us your tips! Visit FineScale.com and click on "Contact Us." Or, you can mail your idea to us at Reader Tips, *FineScale Modeler*, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612.



Myles' pull-out platform fits around him and prevents parts hitting the floor.

Pull-out part saver

After spending 30 percent of my modeling time crawling around on my hands and knees looking for photoetched-metal parts that are attempting to cross the inter-dimensional barrier, I decided to do something about it.

Watchmaker's benches have a pull-out tray that catches little parts that may fall down in the space between you and the work table. I built a slide-out tray that fits next to my belly. The tray was made of some surplus tempered Masonite that I had laying around and a couple of 1" x 3" pieces of wood. I used 1" strips of Masonite to space the wood so the tray would slide. These wood strips are screwed into the 2" x 4" supporting my workbench top. I made a cut that's an approximation of my midsection. Wood blocks serve as handles to make it easier to pull out the tray.

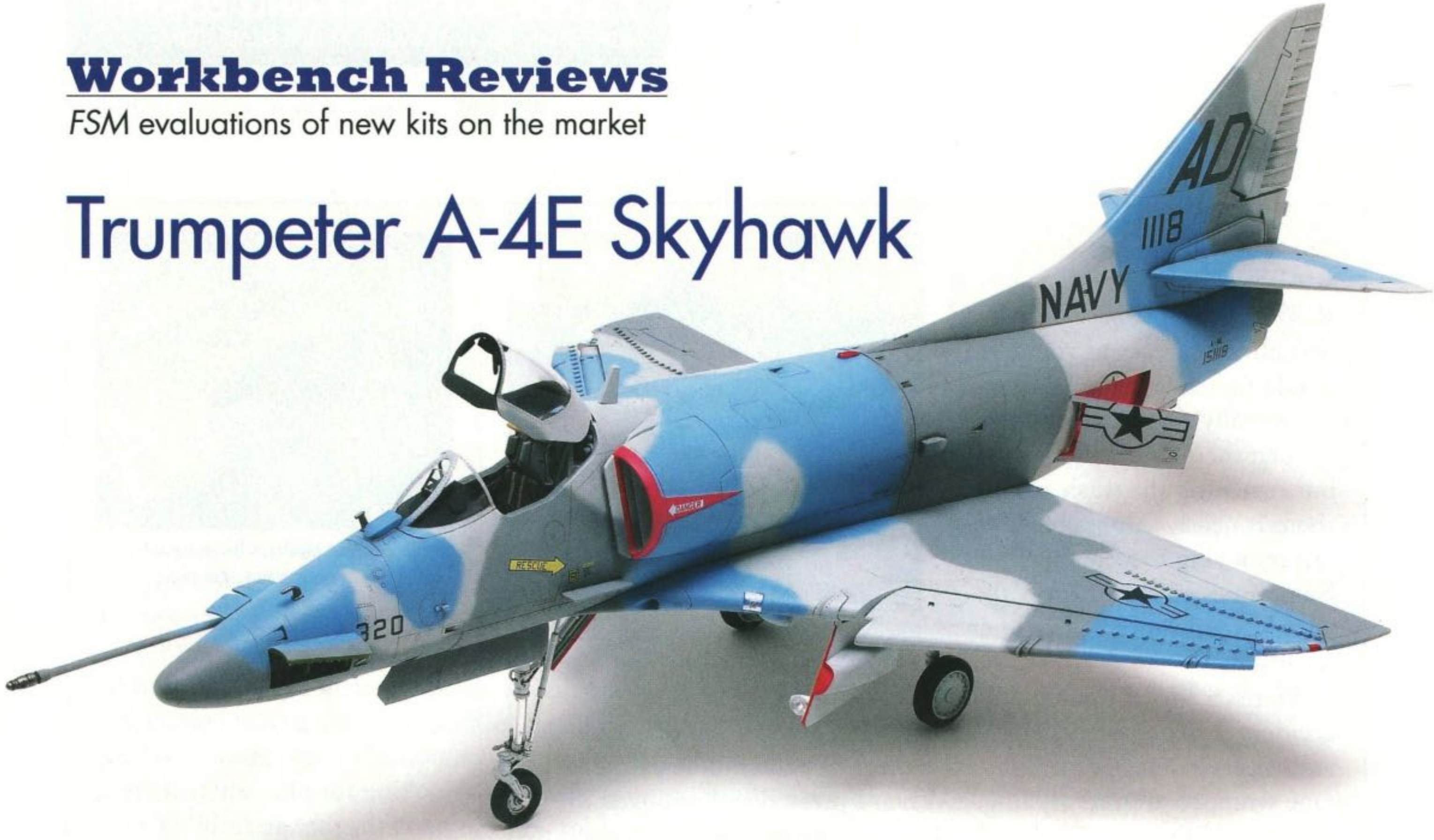
The tray works — as long as I remember to pull it up tight!

– Myles Marcovitch
Louisville, Ky.

Workbench Reviews

FSM evaluations of new kits on the market

Trumpeter A-4E Skyhawk



Designed in the early 1950s as an attack aircraft, the A-4 served for decades in the U.S. Navy and Marines, most notably in the Vietnam War. It also served with the Blue Angels for 12 years, and as an aggressor aircraft, a stripped-down version used to train pilots in air-to-air combat techniques, with the Navy and Marines.

The Trumpeter kit comes with 19 sprues of medium gray plastic, nine of which are the ever-present Trumpeter weapons. You get two white-metal main landing gear struts, which are optional as the kit provides plastic struts. You also get a fret of photoetched metal with parts to detail the speed brakes, seat belts, heads-up display (HUD), mirrors, and the ejection-seat pull ring. Three sheets of decals contain markings for three aircraft — one from VA-72, one from VA-212, and one aggressor aircraft from VF-43 — as well as stencils for the aircraft and the weapons. (Note: The stars and bars supplied are too blue, more of a royal blue than the proper insignia blue.)

The features of the kit include posable canopy flaps, control surfaces, and speed brakes that can be positioned to your liking.

Avionics bays in the nose feature interior detail with panels that can be positioned open or closed, as well as an optional avionics hump. There are machine guns with access covers on the undersides of wings, and the leading-edge maneuvering slats can be extended or retracted.

Then there is the aforementioned standard (for Trumpeter) assortment of weaponry: six Mk.82 500-lb. bombs; six Mk.82 Snakeye 500-lb. bombs; three Mk.117 750-lb. bombs; optional fuse extenders for all those; and two electro-optical smart bombs that aren't used. You also get two wing-mounted fuel tanks and one centerline tank. All of the above comes with all the hard points, rails, and sway braces necessary to mount everything.

... INTAKES GO TOGETHER WELL, BUT ...

Construction begins with the cockpit. The seat has photoetched-metal belts, harnesses, and an ejection pull-ring. The instrument panel is molded in clear plastic with nice relief, but they have you paint the whole thing gray and apply a decal. My decal crumpled into a ball of mush and I had to hand-paint the whole panel. Missing in action is the throttle quadrant; none is provided.

Step 2 is for the main gear struts. Given the option of white metal or plastic struts, I used the plastic.

Step 4 covers the engine and intake funnel, a fairly nice assembly that you don't see a lot of unless you utilize the removable rear fuselage.

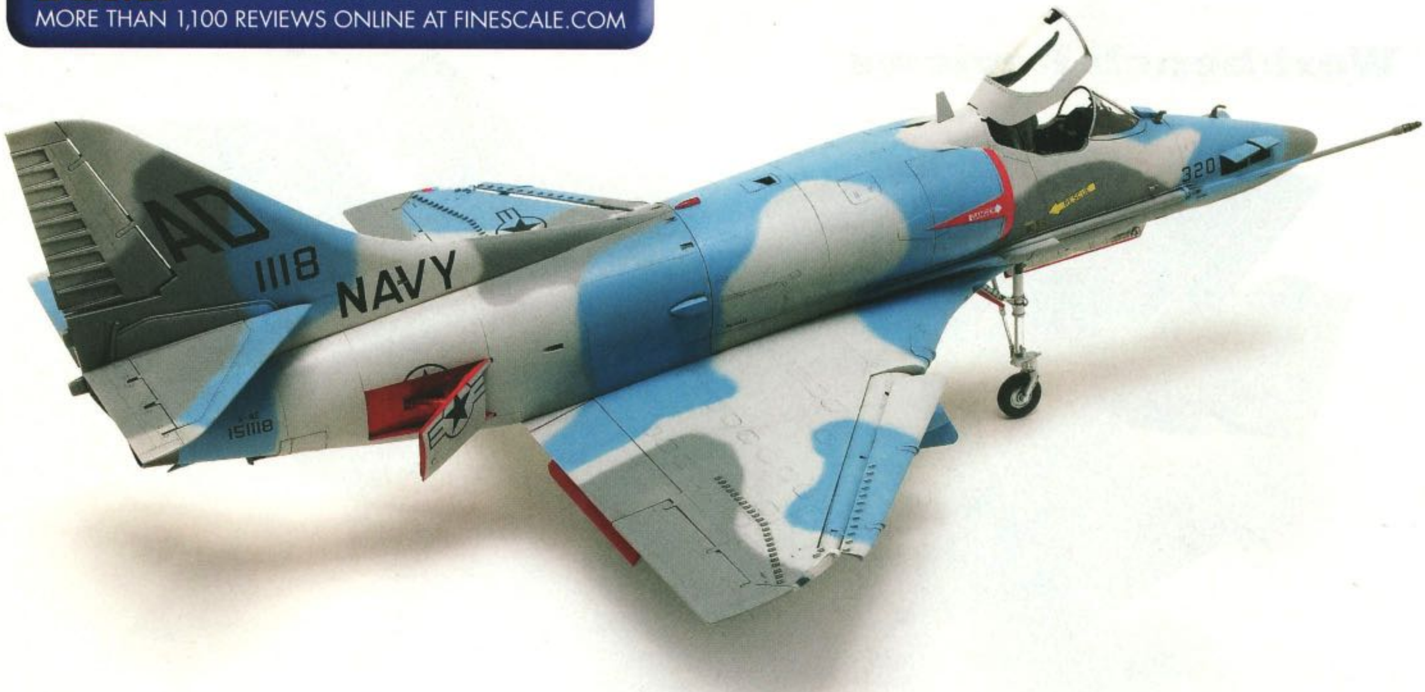
Steps 5 and 6 include the assembly of the front and rear fuselage halves. The front fuselage encases the cockpit, engine assemblies, and the electronics-bay pieces E2 and E21. There are bulkheads to be installed at the rear of the forward fuselage (Part E6) and the front of the rear fuselage (Part E7). Make sure these two parts don't sit proud or the front and rear fuselage assemblies won't mate flush.

The intakes go together well, but when they're mated with the fuselage there is a visible step between the intakes and the intake funnel. The back edge of the intake should have been molded a little thicker to better blend with the funnel, or at least hide the step.

In Step 7 you have the option of using an avionics hump or the usual configuration; I chose the option without the hump.

Without the avionics hump, Part A5 is used to fair the vertical tail into the fuselage. This part sat proud and needed sanding and filling to properly blend with the fuselage. Parts F20, the pitots, are both the wrong shape, and they're over-scale, along with the blade antenna in back of the cockpit (Part A12). The photoetched-metal HUD frame was a little tough to bend into shape.

In Step 13, you have the option of installing the leading-edge slats extended or retracted. The outer actuating arms, parts D14 and D27, have to be shortened so the



slats will be square with the wings. Make sure the actuator arms, slats, and attachment to wings are at the correct angle to ensure proper droop of the slats.

Step 14 is the installation of the ailerons and flaps. The ailerons come as separate assemblies but aren't movable. There's not a lot of play either, so it's kind of difficult to offset the ailerons. The landing flaps can be positioned opened or closed. Trumpeter gives you the alternate fairings, pistons, and control arms for the open position. Nice! The only designation is for the interior of the upper flap surface to be painted red, but all the surfaces should be painted. Some aggressors had the interior of the flaps painted one of the camouflage colors, usually the lightest color.

The gun bay covers, parts F13 and F28, don't fit very well; the plastic bumps on the inside of these parts blank out the shell-ejection chutes but need to be removed because they interfere with the guns. They fit loosely and have to be glued in place anyway.

In Step 18, the sensors and other bits are installed. Some of these may or may not have been left on the plane for an aggressor. Also, there are no guns on the aggressors. Trumpeter should have supplied wing-root parts with faired-over gun-barrel openings.

The nose gear strut and wheel are molded in one piece, which is annoying when it comes to painting.

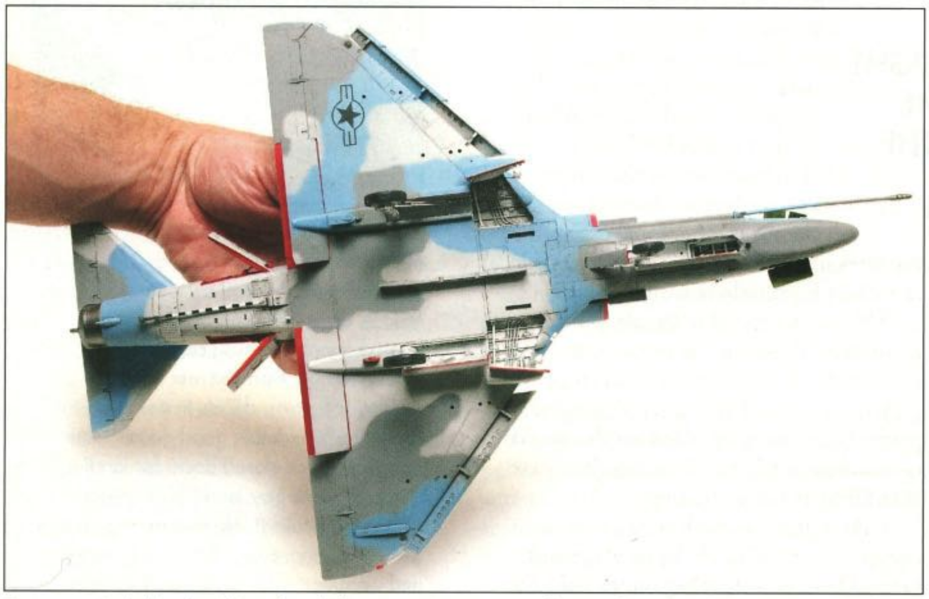
Step 2 instructs you to replace two of the nose-gear door hinges with photoetched-metal hinges. These are way too fragile, so I didn't use them.

Everything else went together fairly easy. Because I painted my model in aggressor markings I didn't use any of the weapons, just the centerline pylon.

I used the aggressor paint scheme. The colors appear accurate — that is, I've seen this color combination used before. The VF-43 pictures I have show a much more subdued paint scheme. This scheme might have been used at some point, but I didn't see any pictures close to it. Still, it's pretty.

It took me about 29 hours to complete my A-4. It's a fairly easy build, but some corrections are needed for an accurate aggressor.

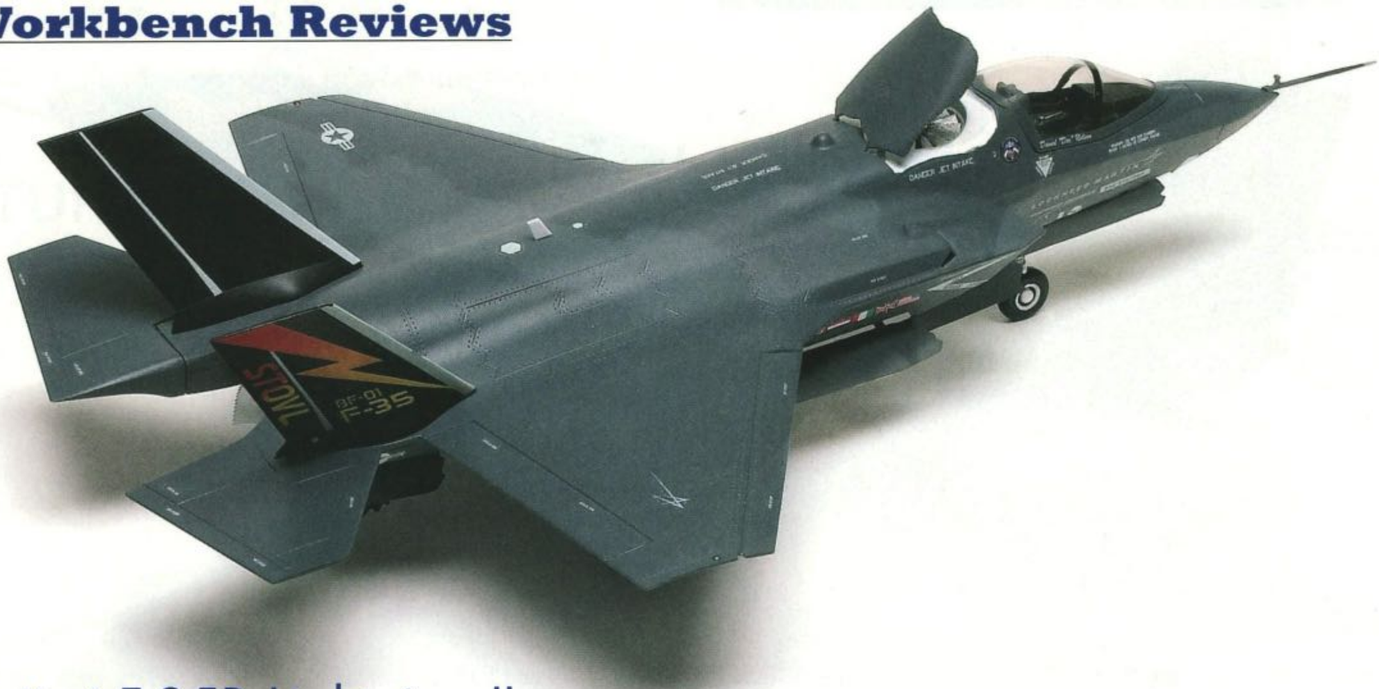
– Larry Schramm



Trumpeter includes detail in a lot of places you won't see without picking the Skyhawk up, including landing-gear bays, speed-brake wells, and avionics compartments.

1:32 Scale
A-4E Sky Hawk
AC
NAVY

Kit: No. 02266 **Scale:** 1/32
Manufacturer: Trumpeter, www.trumpeter-china.com, from Stevens International, 856-435-1555, www.stevenshobby.com **Price:** $118.95
Comments: Injection-molded, 531 parts (2 vacuum formed, 2 cast metal, 20 photoetched metal, 2 vinyl) **Pros:** Fairly easy build; good fits **Cons:** Not completely accurate for an aggressor; one-piece nose wheel and strut; vague painting instructions



Fujimi F-35B Lightning II

Having built Fujimi's excellent F-22A Raptor, I was expecting a repeat performance with its new F-35B kit.

I got some of what I expected. The highlights included fine, shallow recessed exterior detailing and an excellent rendition of the engine and lift fan of the novel STOVL version of this new aircraft.

Two engines are provided, in fact, one for the nozzle in cruise position and another for the nozzle turned 90 degrees for vertical landing. Only one finely detailed nozzle is provided, though.

Fujimi has cleverly included two sets of doors for the landing gear, weapons bay, and nozzle and lift-fan hatches; one set is for open, the other for closed. However, each set has molded-on tabs that fit into thick-walled slots in the bays and appear rather toylike.

THE HIGHLIGHT FOR ME WAS THE FIT ...

The cockpit is a mix of good and poor detail. It gives relief detail on the consoles' cockpit sills, and a separate side-stick, but the main panel relies on a decal, and the ejection seat is a simple bench.

The instructions in my sample have good drawings, but all the labeling is in Japanese. It wasn't clear (to me) about the alternate open/closed features. There's another set of doors on the top of the fuselage that open when the aircraft goes into STOVL mode, but they are only engraved on the kit; no separate doors to open.

Throughout the kit, the parts are attached to the sprue with stubs that sit on the outside and inside on the mating surfaces. This means more time devoted to preassembly cleanup.

But the highlight for me was the fit of the components. The kit appears to be designed to press-fit, with little glue needed. The upper and lower fuselage halves squashed together tightly and showed no gaps around the carefully positioned seams. Same goes for installing the doors; the closed ones fit so perfectly they were almost impossible to remove once pressed into place. The engine, with either exhaust configuration, can be pulled out from the rear to show off the detail.

The weapons bay has some detail molded in, but it is a bit simplified for the scale. A pair each of AMRAMMs and JDAMs have the right shapes but no detail. I painted the bombs international orange like the ones in photos of the test aircraft. Decal stenciling is provided for the missiles.

The paint scheme is simple but not accurately labeled in the instructions. The aircraft should be overall FS36118 gunship gray, not FS36081 dark gray as suggested. I painted the fins gloss black for the special demonstrator scheme. The kits decals are beautifully printed and fit perfectly.

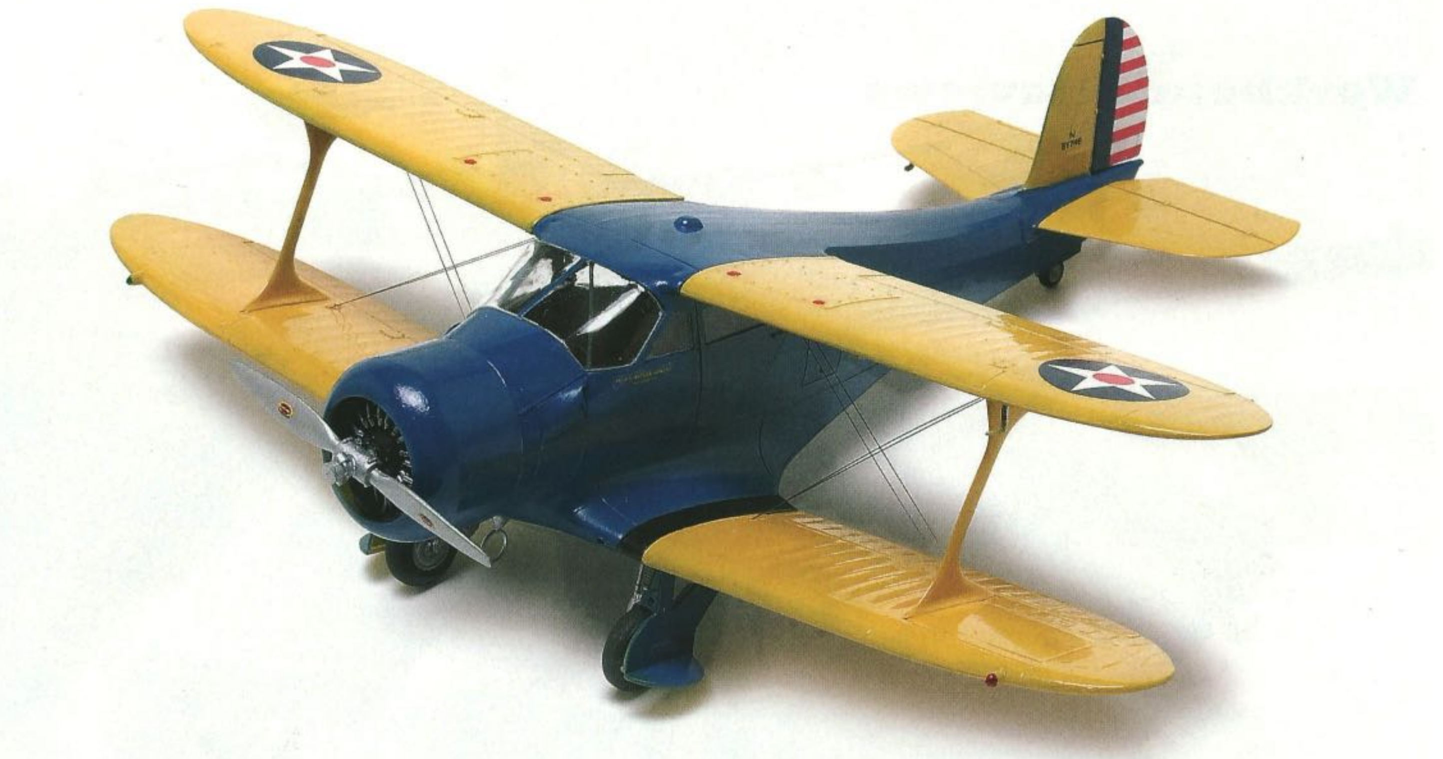
Fujimi provides both tinted and clear canopies, but the fit to the fuselage isn't great. There is no mechanism to hold the canopy in the open position (hinged at the front), and there is no indication of the internal bow that is evident in photos. I applied a strip of black decal film to produce the bow.

For those who must have a kit of the F-35 before (or if) it goes into service, this kit will do. The clever alternate doors and engine open up a wide range of display ideas, but the lack of some details will have some modelers putting in more time to enhance them. It took me 23 hours to build my kit right out of the box.

– Paul Boyer

F-35B
LIGHTNING II
FUJIMI

Kit: No. 722245 **Scale:** 1/72
Manufacturer: Fujimi, www.fujimimokei.com, from Dragon Models USA, 626-968-0322, www.dragonmodelsusa.com
Price: $39.95 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 65 parts, decals **Pros:** Excellent fit and surface detail; good decals; alternate opened or closed doors for landing gear, weapons bay, and STOVL engine
Cons: No intake trunks; no main-gear bay detail; poor nose-gear bay detail; simplified weapons; poor seat; auxiliary inlet doors on fuselage top not provided



Roden Beechcraft UC-43 Staggerwing

You don't have to be an aviation expert to quickly identify a Beechcraft Staggerwing, one of the most distinctive designs in history.

Roden's new Staggerwing is a welcome and well-done model kit. The box art shows an Army Air Force Staggerwing landing at Sycamore Airport near Fort Worth, Texas. Three profiles on the side of the box show the aircraft with markings provided in the kit.

In the box are gray plastic sprues, a sprue of clear parts, and a seven-color decal sheet. Some parts show minor flash and mold seam lines. Panel lines are recessed.

Clear parts include the windshield, cabin windows, and landing-light lenses that are appropriately thin, quite clear, and distortion-free. The decal sheet includes 30 images. I chose the markings of a Staggerwing assigned to U.S. air attachés at the American Embassy in London, 1939.

The decals appear to be in register, but I substituted propeller logo decals from my stash for the kit logos, which were indefinite and lacking detail.

The eight-page instruction booklet contains a history of the aircraft in Ukrainian, English, and German. Along with 20 steps of general assembly there are decal directions, aircraft specifications, a symbols key, a parts map, three-view drawings for color and markings, and a color key for Testors Model Master paints.

The kit goes together easily with only minor cleanup of flash and mold seams. I was not able to make the engine go together as shown in the plans, though, because of the locating pins on the cylinder halves. My engine fits into the cowl about 5 degrees off-center. Roden makes no effort to replicate the Pratt & Whitney cloisonné enamel emblem, which should be located on a vertical line between the two bottom cylinders. Because the cowl air intakes are located dead-center bottom, a cylinder should locate between them. That's not the case, and Step 17 of the instructions clearly shows there is no leeway in mounting the cylinders in the cowl and in mounting the cowl to the nose of the airframe. Not shown are the cutouts inside the trailing edge of the cowl that fit the nose extensions.

For rigging, I used ceramic Wonder Wire from Precision Enterprises. The main landing gear struts were difficult to install and align; mine ended up a little bow-legged.

The windshield was a tight fit; I had to sand the upper edge. The cabin door required sanding of the upper and aft edges to fit.

The completed model is about 7 scale inches long, but I do not know if the propeller was included in the full-scale measurements. The wingspan of the model is 3 scale inches too wide. Close enough, I would say.

The wings, horizontal stabilizers, vertical fin, and windshield frames seem to have scale thickness; the landing gear doors could have been made a little thinner (or replaced with scratchbuilt doors made from sheet styrene).

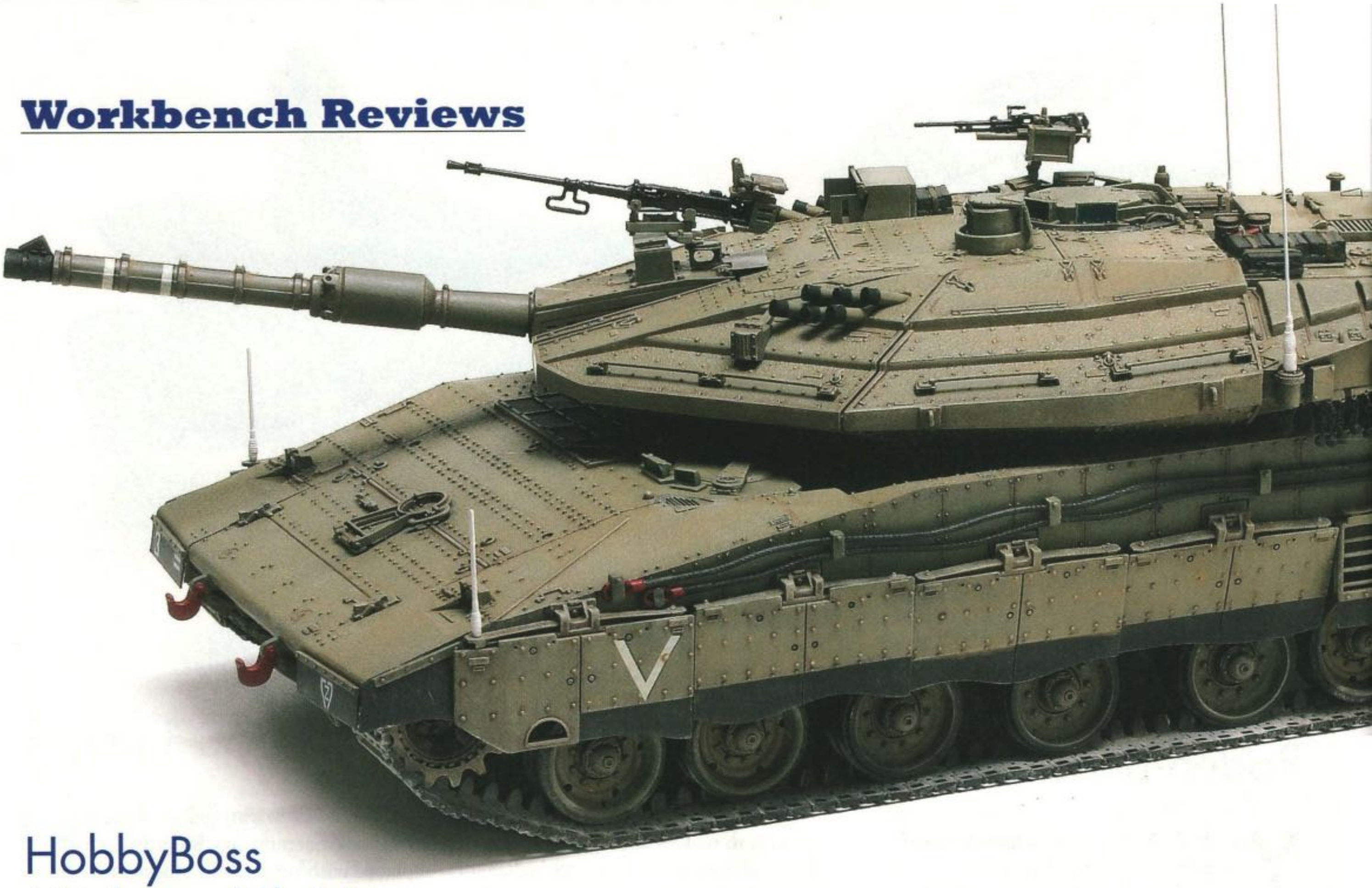
I completed assembly in less than 20 hours; the Testors Model Master paint took longer than that to dry. The decals floated easily from the backing paper and, once in position, stuck fiercely. Solvaset helped wrap the rudder decal around the pushrod.

I really like the model this kit produces. If Roden does more kits like this, I'll be there!

– Allan F. Jones

RODEN
SYCAMORE
442
1/48
Beechcraft UC-43 Staggerwing

Kit: No. 442 **Scale:** 1/48
Manufacturer: Roden, www.roden.eu, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com
Price: $52.99 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 72 parts, decals **Pros:** Good parts fit; nice scheme and marking choices; good decals **Cons:** Nice-looking but difficult-to-assemble landing gear; poor propeller logo decals; cowl/engine alignment problems



HobbyBoss Merkava Mk.IV

HobbyBoss has added an Israeli Merkava Mk.IV to its line of modern main battle tanks. The kit is molded in dark yellow styrene, with the headlight lenses and vision blocks molded in clear styrene. Two frets totaling 96 photoetched-metal parts, plus vinyl tires and poly caps for the road wheels, are included, along with a length of chain and brass beads for the chain armor Merkavas carry on their bustles. The upper hull and turret halves also have very convincing anti-slip coating molded on the upper surfaces.

IDF Merkava Mk IV

Kit: No. 82429 **Scale:** 1/35
Manufacturer: HobbyBoss, www.hobbyboss.com, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com **Price:** $69.99
Comments: Injection-molded, 839 parts (96 photoetched metal, 80 cast-metal, 24 vinyl), decals **Pros:** Anti-slip coating on the hull and turret; nice options for turret and hull baskets; choice of photoetched-metal or plastic parts **Cons:** Vinyl tires; difficult chain armor; incorrect road-wheel positions

There is a little flash on some parts, and a few ejection-pin marks need to be sanded to allow the parts to be glued together, but most fits are fine. A color sheet with the instructions shows two marking options. The .50-caliber machine gun and antennas already have holes in their ends to ease drilling them out.

I like to assemble the hull halves first, so I glued the exhaust vents to the upper hull. After the rear door frame (Part D55) is glued to the lower hull, the two halves can be joined. The rear doors can be open or closed, but with no interior I glued them shut. The rear storage baskets provide a choice of plastic or photoetched-metal parts for the bottom and front of the basket. Included in the basket is a molding of stowage wrapped in a tarp. I used the plastic bottom (Part C30)but chose the photoetched-metal front (Part PE A12) because it is more detailed than the plastic. Then I glued in the stowage. The top and rear frame goes over the stowage, but I left it and the basket front loose for easier painting. A tarp to cover the basket is also included, but I left that off until later, too. Same for the side skirts and dust flaps (parts D45 and D47), which I left off until the tracks were assembled.

The offset suspension is wrong because this tank does not use a torsion-bar suspension; each pair of road wheels should be directly opposite of each other.

THE REAR IDLERS COME AS A SINGLE MOLDING.

The rear idlers come as a single molding. A choice of photoetched-metal or plastic parts is offered to detail the front drive housing (Part D35). I thought the plastic would be easier. The halves of the drive sprocket were a poor fit and needed a little filler.

Vinyl tires are included for the road wheels. Three of the road wheels use a half vinyl tire, leaving a mold seam in the center. The other three road wheels receive a whole vinyl tire, leaving a large protruding rim.

The tracks are individual links that do not lock together; I built them in three-link segments that I joined to make longer runs. I didn't assemble the upper run, which is hidden behind the side skirts.

I joined the turret halves (needing a bit

of filler) but left the gun off until the turret was painted and weathered. Leaving the commander's hatch operable eased access for painting.

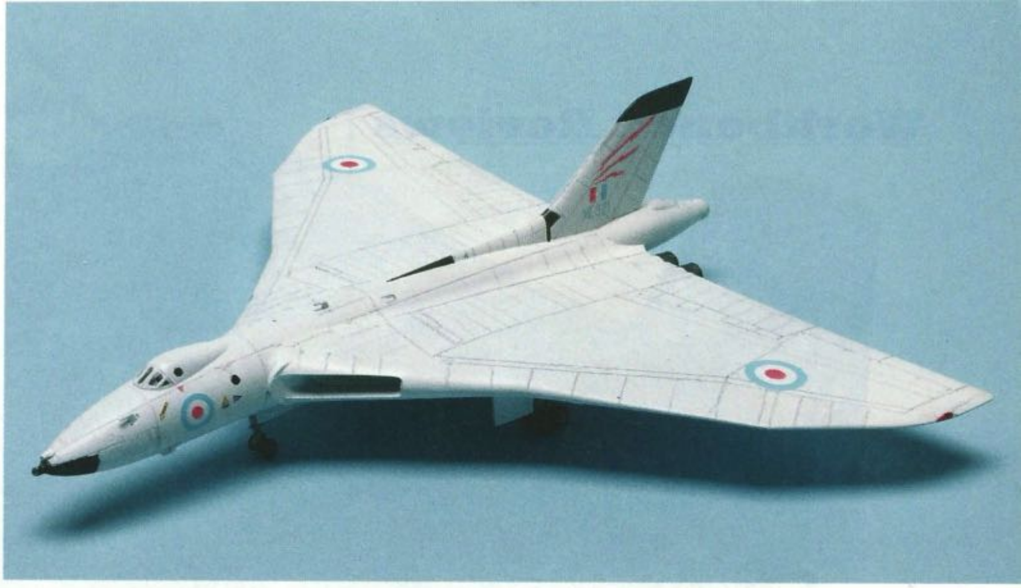
The chain armor for the bustle has a small brass ball with a pin that is bent through a length of chain. (I ran out of chain and had to find more in my spares box.) The ball and chain are then supposed to be clipped into notches in the photoetched-metal frames. But the frames are so fragile I glued them to the turret, then attached the balls to them when I painted the rest of the turret. Rather than paint the chain and balls, I darkened them with Blacken-It. Photoetched-metal tie-down buckles are provided if you want to show the rear basket covered.

The kit's color guide calls for mixing Sinai gray with Mr. Hobby colors. However, that looked a little too green to me. So, I mixed my own colors. The base coat was a 1:1 mix of Tamiya khaki drab (XF51) and medium gray (XF20). Then I "clouded" a 1:1 mixture of khaki (XF49) and medium gray on the centers of panels, applied a gloss coat, then put on the decals. They adhered well with no silvering, but I needed Solvaset to make the chevrons lay down over the rivets on the side skirts.

The stripes on the barrel are included as a decal; the stripe that runs the length of the barrel on top is a single piece that required repeated coats of Solvaset to settle it over the irregular surface. I followed several sealant coats of clear flat with Mig Productions' filter for gray sand, then a brown wash and dry-brushing of Humbrol pale stone, and, finally, a light overall coat of CMK's light dust. K&S brass wire served for the antennas.

I spent 53 hours building the HobbyBoss kit. Based on my references, it represents the Merkava Mk.IV well except for the suspension (which isn't really noticeable). But it will take an experienced modeler to get through the photoetched metal and chain armor.

– Mike Scharf



Cyber-hobby Avro Vulcan B.2

The Avro Vulcan may be a favorite of British Cold War "V-Bomber" fans, but that hasn't translated into many kits for modelers. However, Cyber-hobby has released a new Vulcan in the slightly odd scale of 1/200. Die-cast design roots are betrayed by heavily molded pin-and-post attachment points, and the fit of major components leaves large — but consistent — seams for easy preassembly. But this little Vulcan does have detail: nicely molded recessed panels; a tiny boarding ladder; a cockpit and crew; and decent landing gear.

Options are limited to an early B.2 without the ECM gear molded on the tail. Instructions point out optional gear-up parts, and there appears to be a hole in the rear fuselage for a stand, but there's no stand. I filled the hole with bits of sprue.

Markings are for a green/gray version or the classic anti-flash white with pale markings. Also included is a Blue Steel missile for the underbelly. Rails and pylons for Shrike missiles point to a future "Black Buck" release, but there are no missiles in the box.

Assembly is quick except for filling the large gaps between major parts. I needed styrene shims in the corners of the bomb bay to bring it flush with the underside. Before placing the intakes, I plugged the engine sides with tape and flooded the intakes with white latex paint to fill a length-wise seam inside each intake. (Bonus: This was the right color, too.)

The instructions add inner and outer wheels during nose-gear assembly, but the inner wheels are already molded in place. Oddly, the instructions say to add a Blue Steel missile fin — but that's already molded in place, too. Be sure to add nose weight or your delta will likely dip.

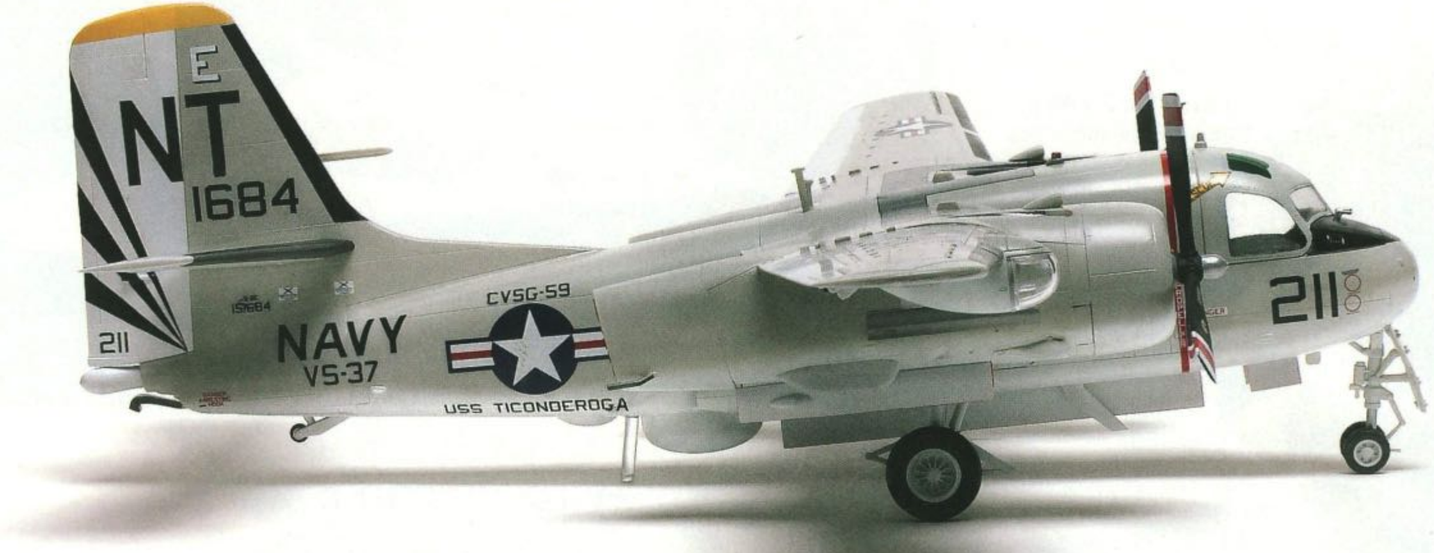
I used styrene strips to fill the big gaps, trimmed, then applied a swipe of Mr. Surfacer 500. That was quick, but painting and decals were even quicker — it's all one color, after all. The decals went on fine but did need persuading to settle into recesses. Numerous missile markings are shown on the box top, but only the tiny RAF roundels are included. I repurposed some of the kit's red speed-brake warning markings and used them to embellish the Blue Steel.

Cyber-hobby's kit scales out well and looks the part. I can't really argue the lack of toe-out in the engine nozzles. (I'm betting only a true Vulcan nut would be bothered, anyway.) After a whopping 10 hours on this kit, I only wish it had been released in the more-common 1/144 scale for my tiny air force. Still, I may have to add the Black Buck version when it appears anyway.

– Chuck Davis

1:200 Modern Air Power Series
AVRO VULCAN B.2
cyber-hobby.com

Kit: No. 2011 **Scale:** 1/200
Manufacturer: Cyber-hobby, www.cyber-hobby.com, from Dragon Models USA, 626-968-0322, www.dragonmodelsusa.com **Price:** $21.95
Comments: Injection-molded, 76 parts, decals **Pros:** Good details; easy assembly- **Cons:** Large gaps between main parts of airframe; lacking decals for ordnance



Kinetic S-2E/S-2G Tracker

Developed to defend against the former Soviet Union's Cold War submarine fleet, Grumman's S-2 Tracker was the U.S. Navy's first purpose-designed anti-submarine warfare aircraft.

Kinetic Model Kits' all-new 1/48 scale S-2E/S-2G Tracker comes on eight sprues of soft, light gray plastic with finely engraved panel lines. Builders' options include: open or closed bomb bay doors; straight or folded wings; open or closed crew hatches (although you would want to leave the hatches closed unless you want to scratchbuild an interior); optional rocket pods (single pieces with mold lines that require extra cleanup); posable arresting hook; and a submarine-detection MAD boom that can be shown deployed if you choose.

There are markings for only one aircraft, but the decals, designed by Fightertown Decals and printed by Cartograf, are flawless. The wheel wells feature plenty of detail, and gear and bomb bay doors are nice and thin. The one-piece engines lack depth but look OK after painting. Wheel hubs are molded separately, allowing you to paint them without masking before adding the two-piece tires.

Construction begins with the cockpit. It was pretty straightforward, but I found the level of detail disappointing — no side consoles, no side-wall detail, and no center console. The instrument panel has raised squares devoid of detail; there is an overhead console, but it has no surface detail at all. The crew seats, too, are basic, and, though the rear cockpit bulkhead has an opening for the aft crew compartment, there's no detail there, either; I blanked it off with a scrap of sheet styrene. The bomb bay lacks detail, too. Using strip styrene, I made up some rib detail to spice things up. Detail in the nose-wheel and main-gear wells was fine; I don't know why the cockpit and bomb bay were overlooked.

The fuselage halves went together with no problems. The fit was good, needing only a little bit of Tamiya putty to fill some shallow sink marks. Adding the main wings and engine nacelles was no problem, either. However, there's no interior detail for the prominent searchlight on the right wing; with its big, clear lens, the absent detail is very noticeable. (Hopefully, an aftermarket company will come to the rescue.)

Despite the instructions, I decided to leave the main wings off until the end of construction since their spars fit tightly into slots in the fuselage halves; I felt this would make the decaling and painting much easier than with the wings attached.

The two-piece canopy was thin and clear, and it fit the fuselage just fine.

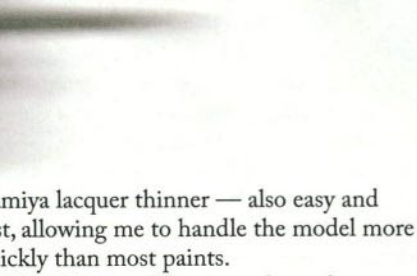
The instructions were vague and incomplete concerning the interior and engine painting instructions and placement of antennas. (I did find the box art a useful reference for the antennas.)

I used Mr. Color gloss gray (No. 16440) thinned with Mr. Color leveling thinner; it was the first time I had used these products, and I couldn't have been happier. The gloss is easy to apply, fast-drying, and an excellent surface for decals. For the gloss white, I used Tamiya acrylic paint thinned with Tamiya lacquer thinner — also easy and fast, allowing me to handle the model more quickly than most paints.

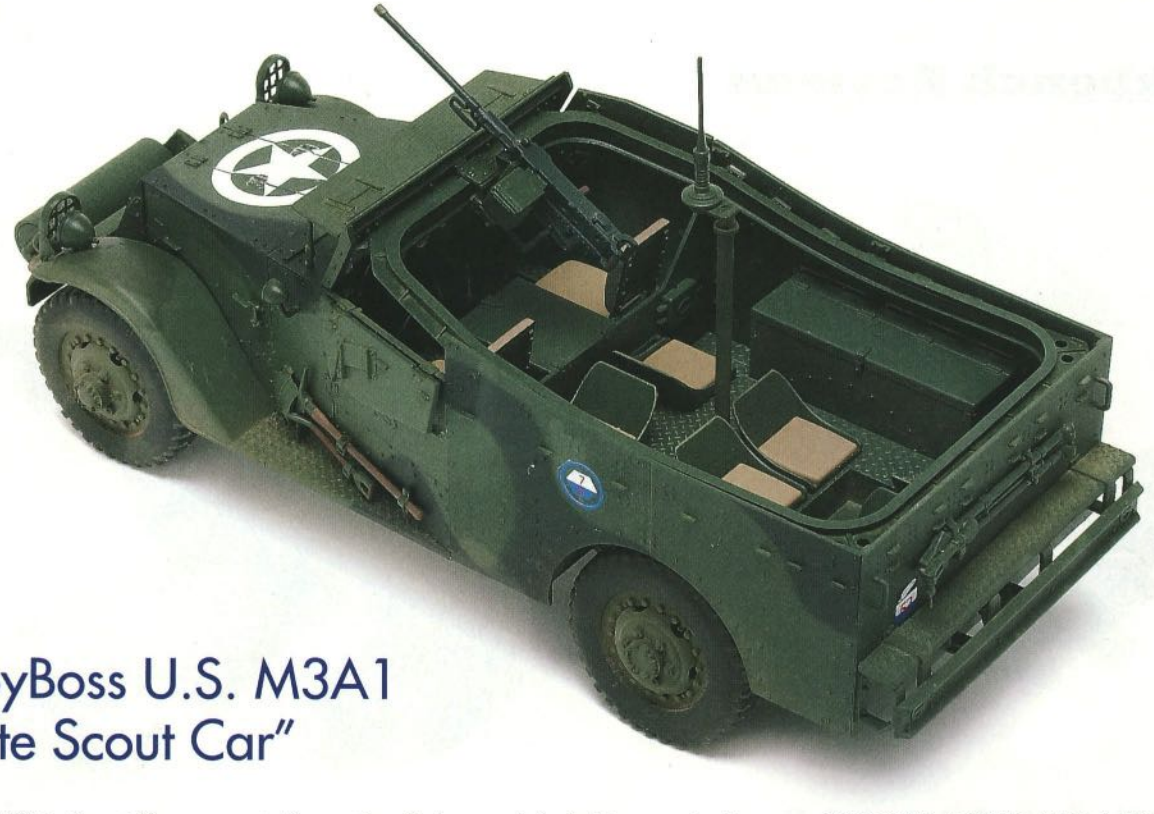
The Cartograf decals performed perfectly! I used a tiny bit of Mr. Mark Softer to get them to conform to surfaces.

Kinetic's Tracker is fairly easy to build and captures the distinctive look of the S-2F; mine took 30 hours to put together. With the nice fit, low parts count, and perfectly performing decals, I would recommend this kit to intermediate modelers who think they can handle the complex masking required for painting.

– Jon Hergenrother



Kit: No. K48024 **Scale:** 1/48
Manufacturer: Kinetic Model Kits, www.kineticmodel.com, from Stevens International, 856-435-1555, www.stevenshobby.com **Price:** $89.95
Comments: Injection-molded, 196 parts, decals **Pros:** Good parts fit overall; thin, clear parts fit well; excellent decals
Cons: Little detail in the cockpit or bomb bay; vague, incomplete instructions; no painting callouts



HobbyBoss U.S. M3A1 "White Scout Car"

The M3 White Scout Car was part of the pre-World War II motorization of the U.S Army. While seeing limited combat service with U.S. forces, it was highly used by the Allies and continued after the war in many small conflicts around the world.

HobbyBoss gives us an all-new model of the White M3A1 Scout Car that supplants the old Italeri (ex-Peerless) kit.

The parts are cleanly molded in dark yellow plastic; clear parts are provided for the windshield and headlights. Special features include a detailed engine compartment and early-type machine guns. No crew figures are provided in the kit.

I started construction according to the instructions, assembling the engine. It's a good representation of the 6-cylinder Hercules engine but, surprisingly, there is no radiator. The hood panels are separate pieces and can be posed open to show the engine detail.

MODELERS OF ALLIED VEHICLES CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THIS NEW RELEASE ...

The chassis has one main component to which the front and rear bumpers, exhaust, engine, suspension springs, and drivetrain are attached. I needed several dry runs to determine the proper set of the axles and springs. If you don't get this right, you might not have all tires touching the ground.

The kit calls itself an "early production" version, but some details, such as the later wheels and tires, make this description somewhat of a misnomer. However, the tires do have a slight bulging to simulate weight.

The crew compartment features nicely detailed seats and internal details with separate parts for the two-piece doors. I did have a problem installing the steering wheel because of how the steering column attaches to the instrument panel; I would recommend mounting the steering column lower and farther forward than the directions indicate. While the prominent antenna mast is present, no radio gear is provided. The unique 360-degree machine-gun skate-rail mount is built up from three pieces and went on with no problem. The M2 .50-caliber machine gun features elongated cooling vents seen on early M3A1s. Two .30-caliber water-cooled machine guns are also included.

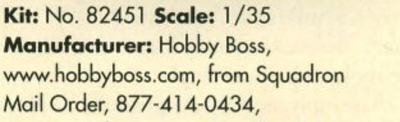
The armored radiator cover is built from several pieces, and the slats are meant to be movable. I found they were a problematically tight fit and moved poorly. I just glued them closed.

I painted the model with a combination of Tamiya spray and acrylic paints. Decals are provided for two vehicles — one pre-WWII U.S. Army, the other an unidentified New Zealand army vehicle. The decals applied well over a gloss coat with the help of decal solution.

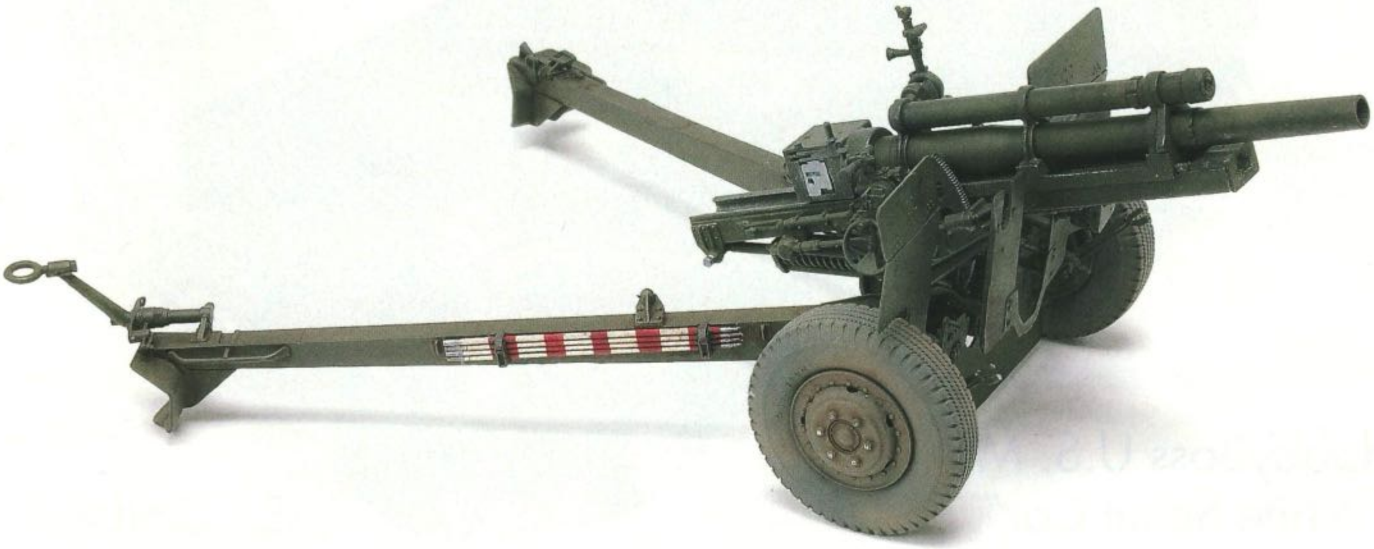
My primary reference was R.P. Hunnicutt's *Armored Car: A History of American Wheeled Combat Vehicles* (Presidio Press, ISBN 978-0-89141-777-4). This finished model looks good against the photos and drawings, but the book confirms that some of the kit details are not appropriate for an early version of the M3A1.

I completed my White Scout car in 20 hours. It was great to build an up-to-date kit of this interesting U.S. Army vehicle, but the intensive construction makes this a kit for experienced builders. Still, modelers of Allied vehicles can't go wrong with this new release from HobbyBoss.

–Jim Zeske



Kit: No. 82451 **Scale:** 1/35
Manufacturer: Hobby Boss, www.hobbyboss.com, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com **Price:** $48.99
Comments: Injection-molded, 255 parts (15 photoetched metal), decals
Pros: Well molded; nice-looking weapons **Cons:** Details not consistent with early-production versions; no radiator for the engine; poorly operating radiator slats



AFV Club M2A1 105mm howitzer

AFV Club has released two versions of the M2A1 105mm howitzer at the same time, one with the early M2 carriage, the other with the later M2A2 carriage (the subject of this review). The major difference between them is the later version has a different gun-shield arrangement, and the carriage uses standard military tires. These guns were first produced in 1941, served throughout World War II, continued through the Vietnam War, and are still used by several countries.

Molded in olive green plastic, the kit features good detail. The trails and gun platform are movable if assembled carefully. The gun shields are molded remarkably thin (no photoetched metal needed here). The barrel is turned metal; unfortunately, the rifling in the barrel is incorrectly parallel to the barrel (instead of twisted). There is a small fret of photoetched metal and a decal sheet for five sets of markings, three listed as "unknown," and two post-WWII guns. The two highway-tread combat tires are molded in hard vinyl.

Assembly starts with the delicate elevation spring. Take care removing the injection molded springs from the sprue. I glued the assembly together in stages, letting the glue dry between steps: first, the end plate (Part A42); then, the upper plate (after adding the middle plate, Part A40, and the springs); and, finally, I used a couple of toothpicks to compress the springs so I could carefully glue the center rod (Part A19) to the middle plate. Once everything was dry, it worked just like the real thing.

I left the ranging rods (Part C2) off the right trail arm until the gun was painted so I could paint their distinctive red and white stripes. I discovered later that the cradle clamps (Part A13) are actually too far back when installed as shown in the instructions. This is not a big issue if you display your gun in a firing position, but will be a problem if you want it configured for towing. I suggest you sand off the locating ridges on the trails and install the clamps after the gun-cradle assembly is in place, using the cradle to determine their location.

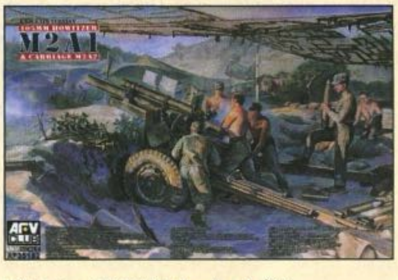
The main gun cradle is molded in one piece, eliminating the unsightly and difficult-to-remove central seam found on most gun kits. When installing the gun cradle assembly, be careful to allow it to elevate and pivot; glue the right pivot (Part B31) carefully or the gun won't elevate. I left off the right shield support (F12) until the shield was added to position it correctly.

The crank wheel in Step 10 is incorrectly labeled B8 on the instruction sheet. It should be Part A48. While the tires are nicely molded, I did not like the way the wheels fit. The outside rim did not seem to seat as deeply as it should, resulting in the cutouts in the rims being too small compared with photos.

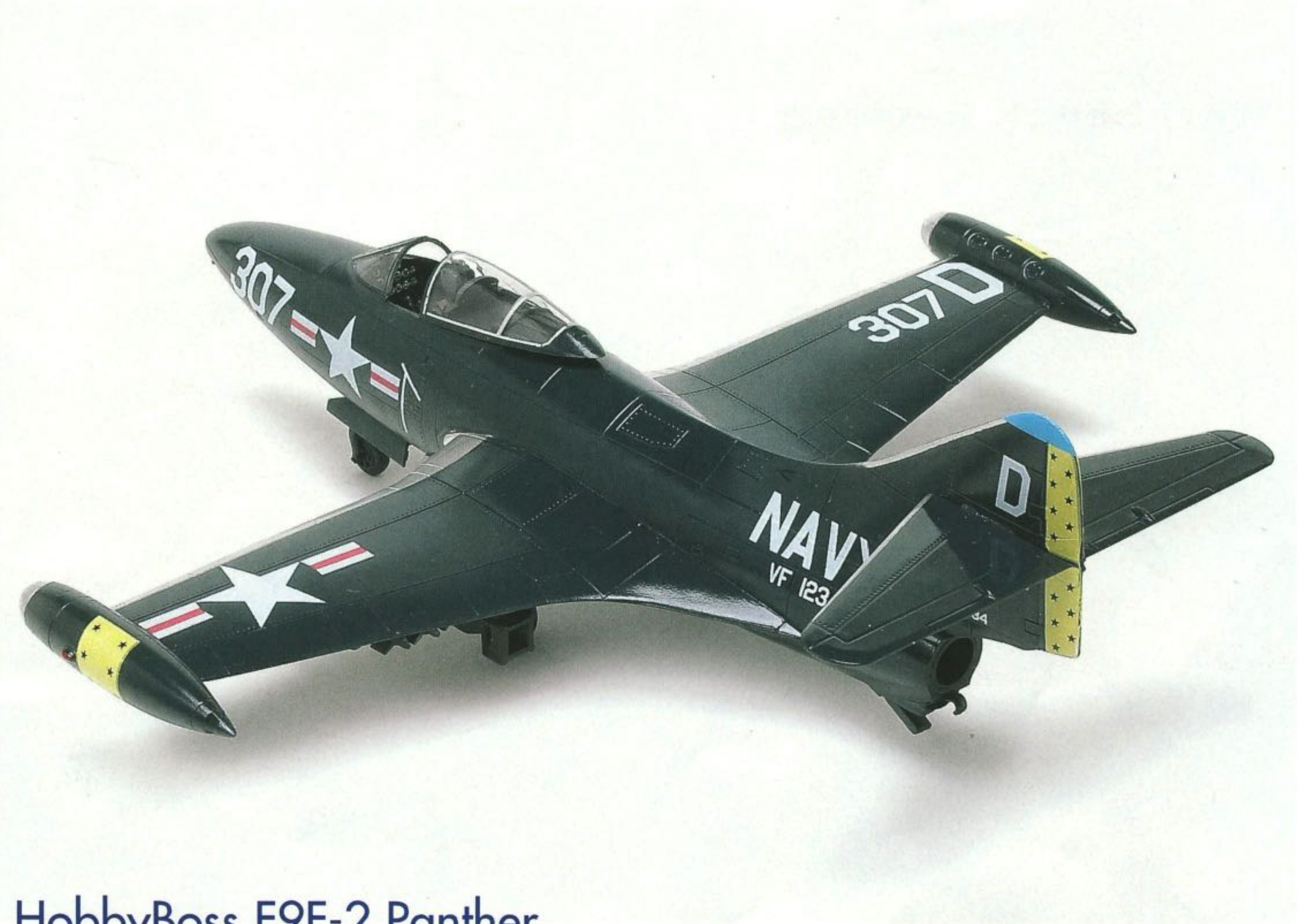
It only took me about 12 hours to finish my kit, but building it will require a skilled modeler comfortable with small, delicate parts. The finished model looks great and matches the dimensions I found on Wikipedia. Also helpful were photos of the real thing on Toadman's Tank Pictures website, www.toadmanstankpictures.com.

Comparing this model to the Dragon version issued a couple of years ago, I would say the AFV Club kit is slightly better detailed and engineered — but also more complicated to assemble.

–John Plzak



Kit: No. AF35182 **Scale:** 1/35 **Manufacturer:** AFV Club, www.afvclub.com.tw, from Merit International, 626-912-2212, www.merit-intl.com **Price:** $38 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 247 parts (1 white metal, 16 photoetched metal), decals **Pros:** Detailed; well-engineered; optional positioning; scale-thin shield **Cons:** Delicate assembly; lots of tiny parts (some mislabeled); poorly fitting wheel rims; incorrect barrel rifling



HobbyBoss F9F-2 Panther

Grumman's F9F Panther was the only one of the U.S. Navy's first generation of carrier-borne jet fighters to see significant production. It was the prime Navy jet fighter of the Korean War and led to the swept-wing Cougar.

HobbyBoss' kit is well molded with finely recessed panel detail and not a lot of recessed rivets. The overall shape of the moldings is good, better, in fact, than the venerable 35-year-old Hasegawa venture with its oversized nose. It's a bit more difficult to assemble than the old Hasegawa kit, but that's because there are more parts. With more parts comes more detail, but everything fits well.

MORE PARTS ... MORE DETAIL, BUT EVERYTHING FITS WELL.

The kit provides optional loads of a pair of 500-lb. bombs, six 100-lb. bombs, and six 5" rockets. The cockpit includes separate rudder pedals, instrument panel, stick, and seat, but no harness.

Instead of recommending weight inside the nose, HobbyBoss has you install a small prop to hold the rear fuselage up. That is shown but not explained in the instructions, and the prop even shows up in the color drawings for paint and decal positioning as though it were an integral part of the aircraft. Instead, I added lead shot inside the nose and filled the hole for the prop.

The only disappointing aspect of the kit was the two-part canopy. Both the molding and the kit's four-view drawing show the frames at the rear of the windscreen and front of the sliding canopy at 90 degrees to the aircraft centerline. They should be 90 degrees to the slightly inclined canopy rail. Fortunately, there's enough meat on each piece to allow judicious sanding and re-establishment of the frame lines. That adjustment makes the canopy a tiny bit short of length when closed, but if you leave it open you'll never notice it.

I painted the model with Testors Model Master gloss sea blue and used Alclad II polished aluminum on the leading edges. HobbyBoss' decals were thin and a bit finicky to handle, but I managed. In addition to the VF-123 bird (the same, coincidentally as the initial boxing of the Hasegawa kit), HobbyBoss offers markings for an attractive gray and white Panther of the Argentine navy.

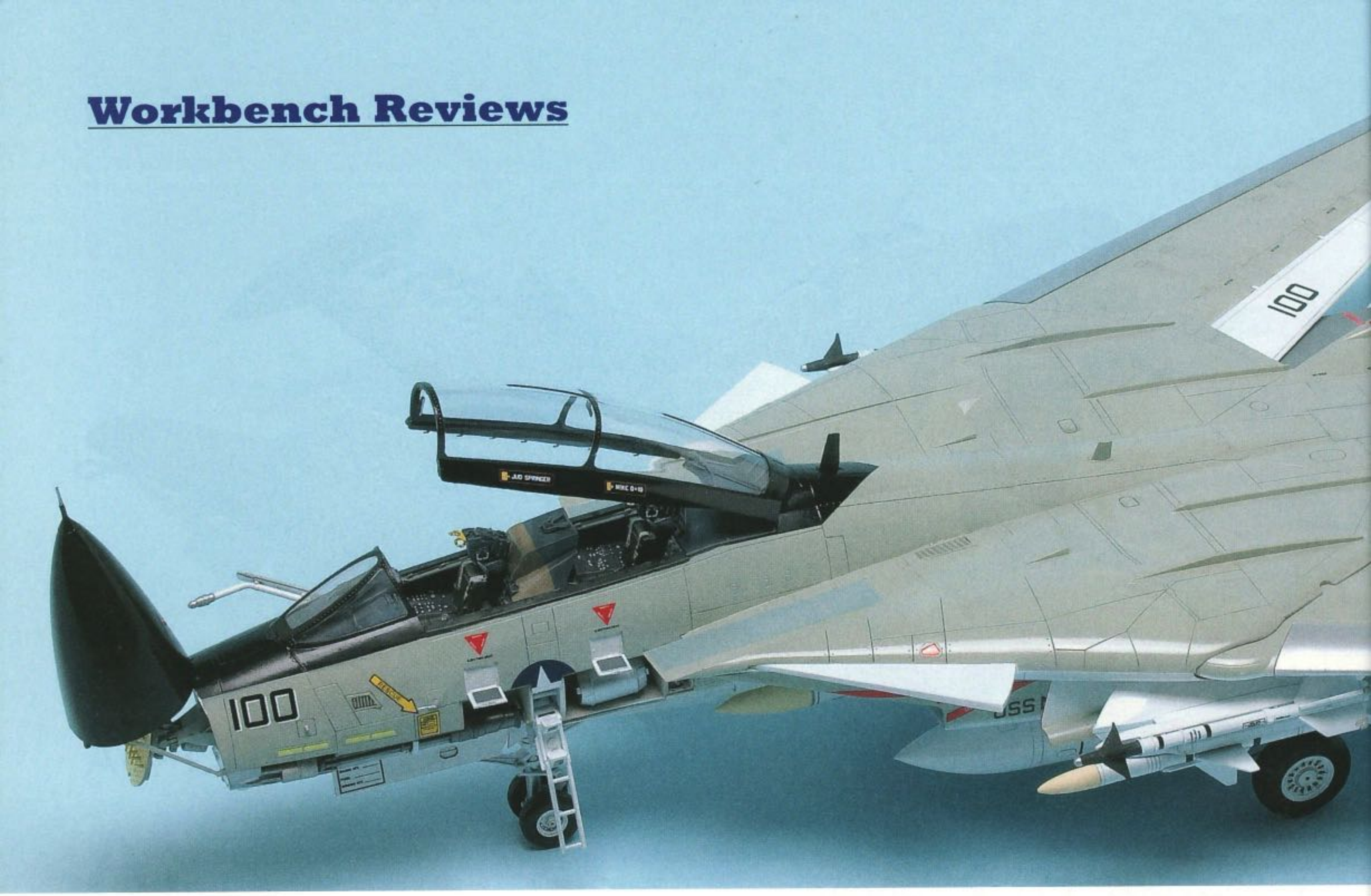
The finished model looks a lot like a Panther. The gun-gas purge vents on the nose were a late fit on Dash 2 Panthers and can be sanded off easily. A few unused clear parts indicate that an F9F-2P reconnaissance Panther is coming.

I spent 17 hours on this model, and recommend it to anyone with moderate modeling skills. Now I'm hoping for a Dash 5 Panther. Why not?

– Paul Boyer

F9F-2 Panther
F9F-2 パンサー
307

Kit: No. 87248 **Scale:** 1/72
Manufacturer: HobbyBoss, www.hobbyboss.com, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com **Price:** $25.99
Comments: Injection-molded, 95 parts, decals **Pros:** Excellent fit; fine surface detail; good interior details
Cons: Misshapen canopy; finicky decals



HobbyBoss F-14A Tomcat

Grumman's F-14 Tomcat gained a special place in history and in the hearts of many aviation buffs as an overarching symbol of American airpower. Sadly, the only place you may still see one flying is in Iran — Grumman's last Big Cats were retired from U.S. service in 2006.

F-14A Tomcat
HOBBY BOSS
1:48 SCALE

Kit: No. 80366 **Scale:** 1/48
Manufacturer: HobbyBoss, www.hobbyboss.com, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com **Price:** $99.99
Comments: Injection-molded, 441 parts (33 photoetched metal, 4 vinyl), decals
Pros: Fine fit and finish; multiple options
Cons: Instrument panel decals are too big; sparse direction for colors

HobbyBoss' 1/48 scale kit is well packed, with various parts — such as the weapons, wheels, and fuselage halves — in separate boxes. Further versions of the Tomcat may be in the offing, as the box contains bomb racks, BOL rails, a LANTIRN pod, and several other features found on later variants.

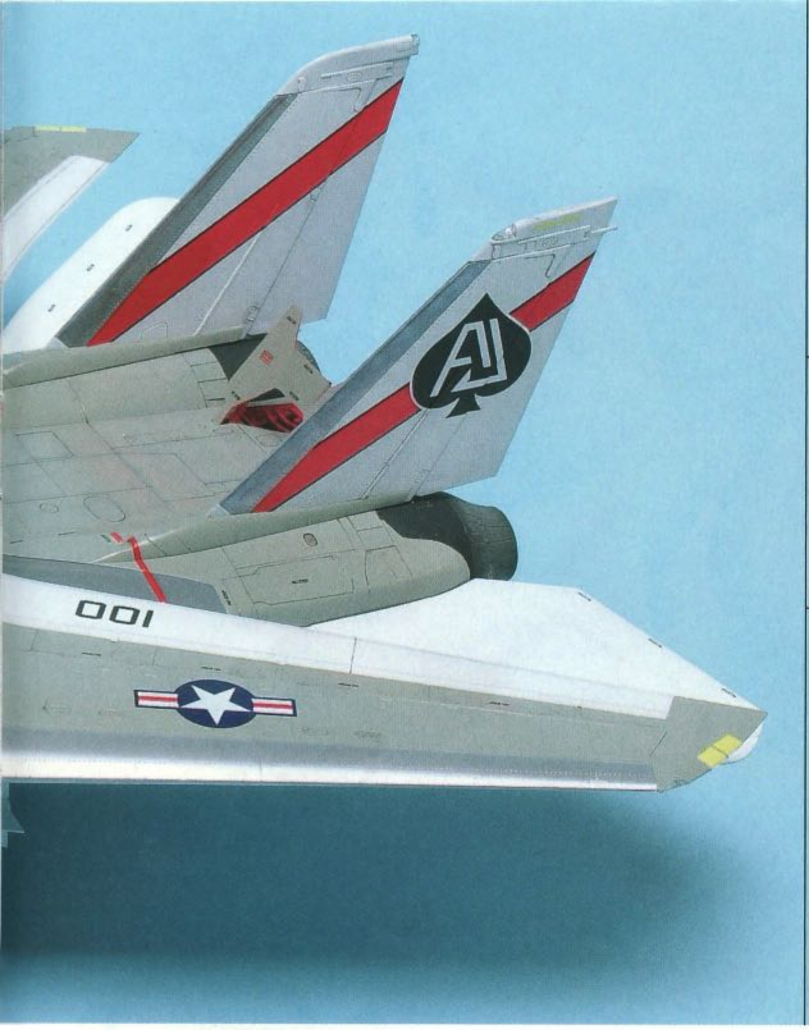
This particular boxing can only be built as an early Tomcat, though, with one chin pod, suitable only for early-block aircraft, and beaver-tail parts that do not include the ECM fairing found on later jets. Including these items would have multiplied the airframes possible. Color schemes for two jets from the mid-1970s are supplied; both the VF-41 Black Aces and VF-132 Swordsmen schemes are gloss light gull gray over gloss white.

I SPENT SEVERAL LONG NIGHTS WITH HUNDREDS OF SMALL DECALS.

Construction presents few problems, as fit is good and requires very little filler. The cockpit is nicely detailed, even if the instrument panels are a bit clunky. Decals for the instrument panels are much too big, though. The seats include photoetched-metal brass straps and crisply molded detail. Color callouts are a little sparse; you'll need more research.

Instructions are for the undercarriage legs to be assembled into the wheel bay "boxes," then mounted in the fuselage. To avoid breaking them during the build, I installed them only after painting and decals. I had to shorten the locating pins, but that did not affect the alignment or strength of the undercarriage. Squeezing the nose leg into place was a little tricky but doable. The vinyl tires fit well.

I also modified the swing-wing pivot mounts. HobbyBoss would have you pin the wings in place, then mount the upper fuselage half. But this would make painting and handling trickier. You could finish the wings before installation, but there are seams to fill where the fuselage joins the wings, and painting, too. I cut a portion of the wing mount "dough-



100
NAVY
VF-41

nut" so I could slide the wings onto their pivot pins later.

Building options are plentiful: wings can be posed at any sweep angle; there are two wing bladders provided for either swept or forward swept positions; the in-flight refueling probe can be open or closed; you could model a later jet with the main IFR probe door removed; and a fairly complete Vulcan 20mm cannon is included, with separate doors. Detail on the engine exteriors won't be visible on the finished model, so I left these pieces off. You can elevate the nose cone to show off the AWG-9 radar. Adding the dipoles to the radar dish was a challenge; next time I will use something other than super glue and leave a little of the fret on the photoetched metal for a better attachment.

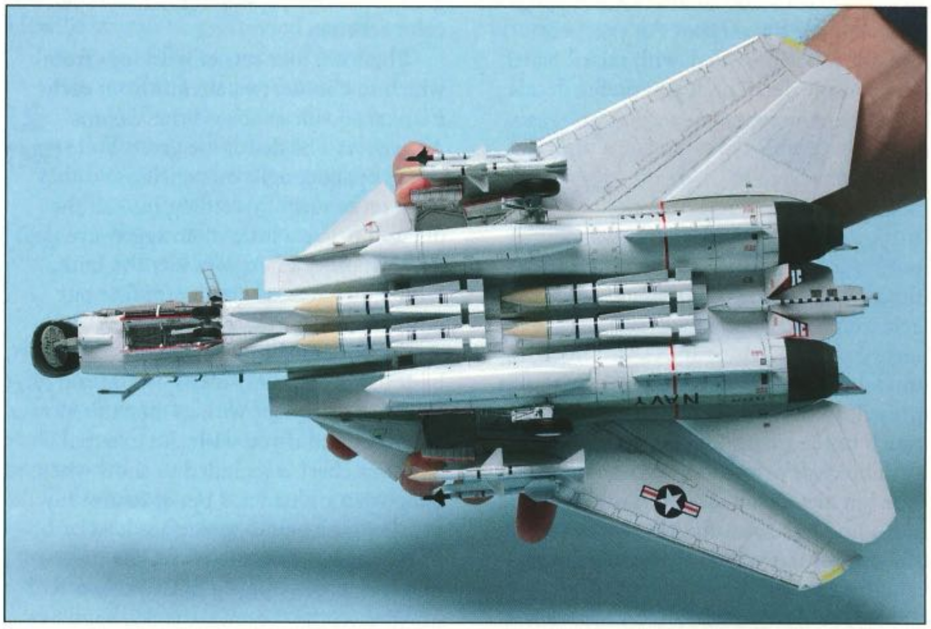
Don't forget to weight the nose, particularly with the wings swept back — it *will* sit on its tail! There is ample room behind the forward bulkhead for several large fishing sinkers.

I airbrushed Tamiya TS-26 pure white decanted from the spray can and thinned with Tamiya lacquer thinner. The light gray is Testors 36440, with the gloss finish coming from Tamiya gloss lacquer, again decanted, thinned, and airbrushed. The gloss black is also Tamiya spray.

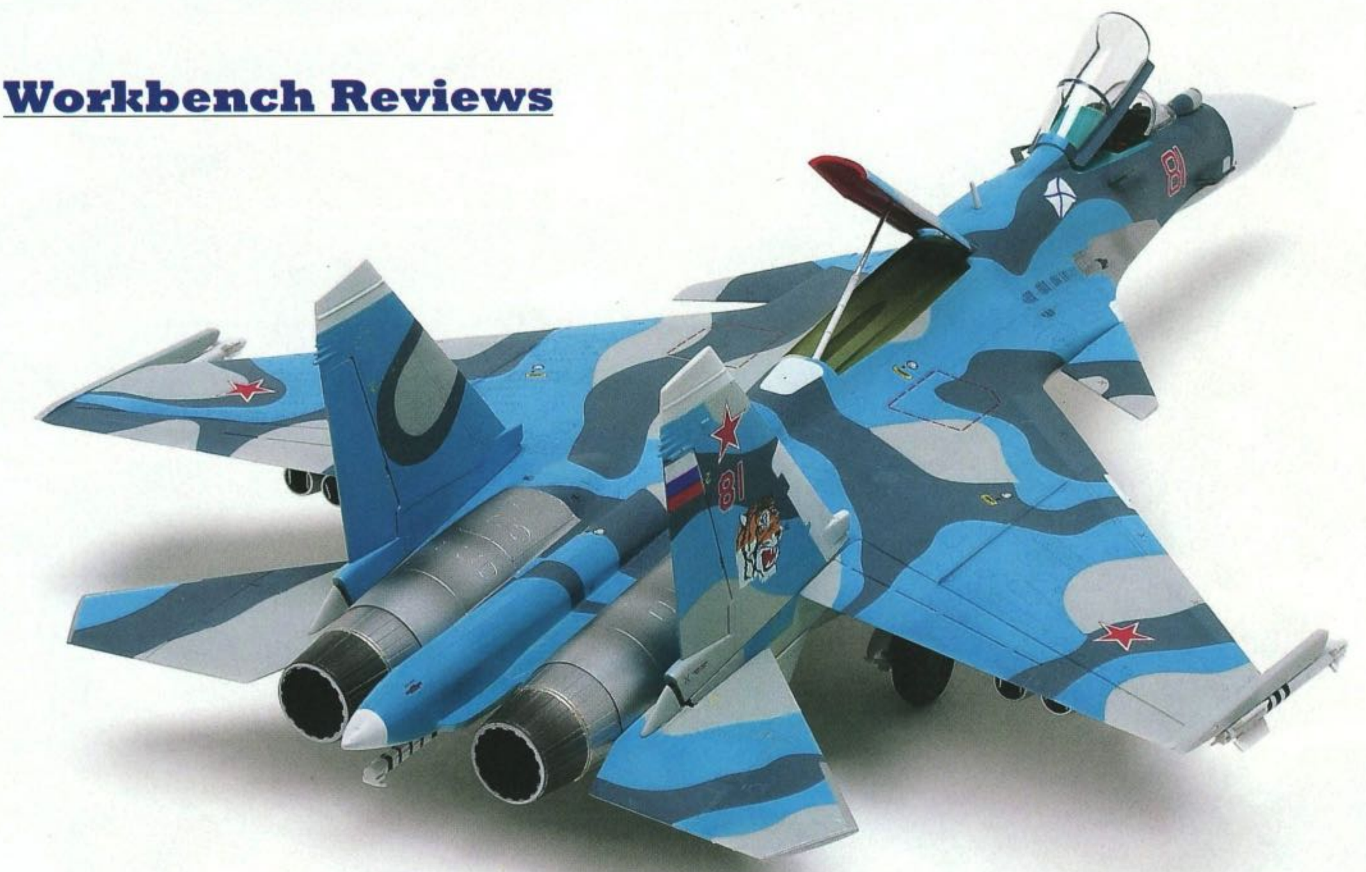
The kit-supplied decals behaved well indeed! The quantity is daunting — one Phoenix missile has about a dozen decals! I spent several long nights with hundreds of small decals.

HobbyBoss has outdone itself — good fit and detail, many options, and the promise of more versions to come. A few more parts would have greatly multiplied the kit's possibilities, but that is not much to complain about. I enjoyed every minute of building it, and I plan on adding another one (or two) to my stash!

– Matthew Walker



There's a lot of detail in HobbyBoss' Tomcat, including good gear bays, a radar dish in the nose, an exposed cannon, and a full array of air-to-air weapons, including big Phoenix missiles.



Hasegawa Sukhoi Su-33 "Flanker-D"

Hasegawa's new tooling of the "Flanker-D" is well executed in gray plastic with beautifully engraved panel lines and fine surface detail.

The kit includes a full complement of weapons in addition to options for open or closed positioning of the canopy, speed brake, and louvered auxiliary air doors given as inserts for the intakes. An excellent cockpit tub is provided, with raised panel and console detail or, if you prefer, decals for the instruments.

Fit of parts wasn't very good right around the "step joint" of the nose and the radome, but the rest of the model fairly snapped together with precision. A little putty was needed where the intake trunks fit the fuselage engine fairings. The landing gear and wheels are super, with the six-part nose gear building up into a neat little model all by itself. A modicum of detail is present in the nose gear well, but not so much in the mains.

The clear parts are a little on the thick side but are crystal clear. On my sample, a seam line ran down the exterior center of the canopy but was easily sanded and polished off.

The painting callouts reference only Gunze Sangyo's Mr. Color line, with some Gunze acrylic equivalents given in places. I thought the RLM 65 blue specified for the undersides (plus the lightest color for the topside camouflage) was too dark, so I used Gunze H417 (RLM 76 blue) acrylic instead. The other colors I used were H45 light blue and H56 intermediate blue — the latter is a little too dark, but I wasn't going back and repainting that complicated color scheme.

There are four sets of markings from which to choose, two aircraft from each Flanker squadron aboard the *Admiral Kuznetsov*. The decals are great: Full stenciling, opaque, right on register, and they went on beautifully, settling into all the detail. They're a little more aggressive than those in other Hasegawa kits I've built, tending to stick where they're first put down.

Ordnance? Wow! You get a box full — basically two sprues' worth — and you can festoon the aircraft with as much firepower as it will hold if you wish. An external weapons chart is included to show where to hang what ordnance. I opted to arm my Flanker with an air-to-surface load of B8 FFAR rocket pods plus two R73 air-to-air missiles on the wingtip rails and two R77 missiles on the centerline racks. Kind of a "fight your way in, hit the target, and fight your way out" load.

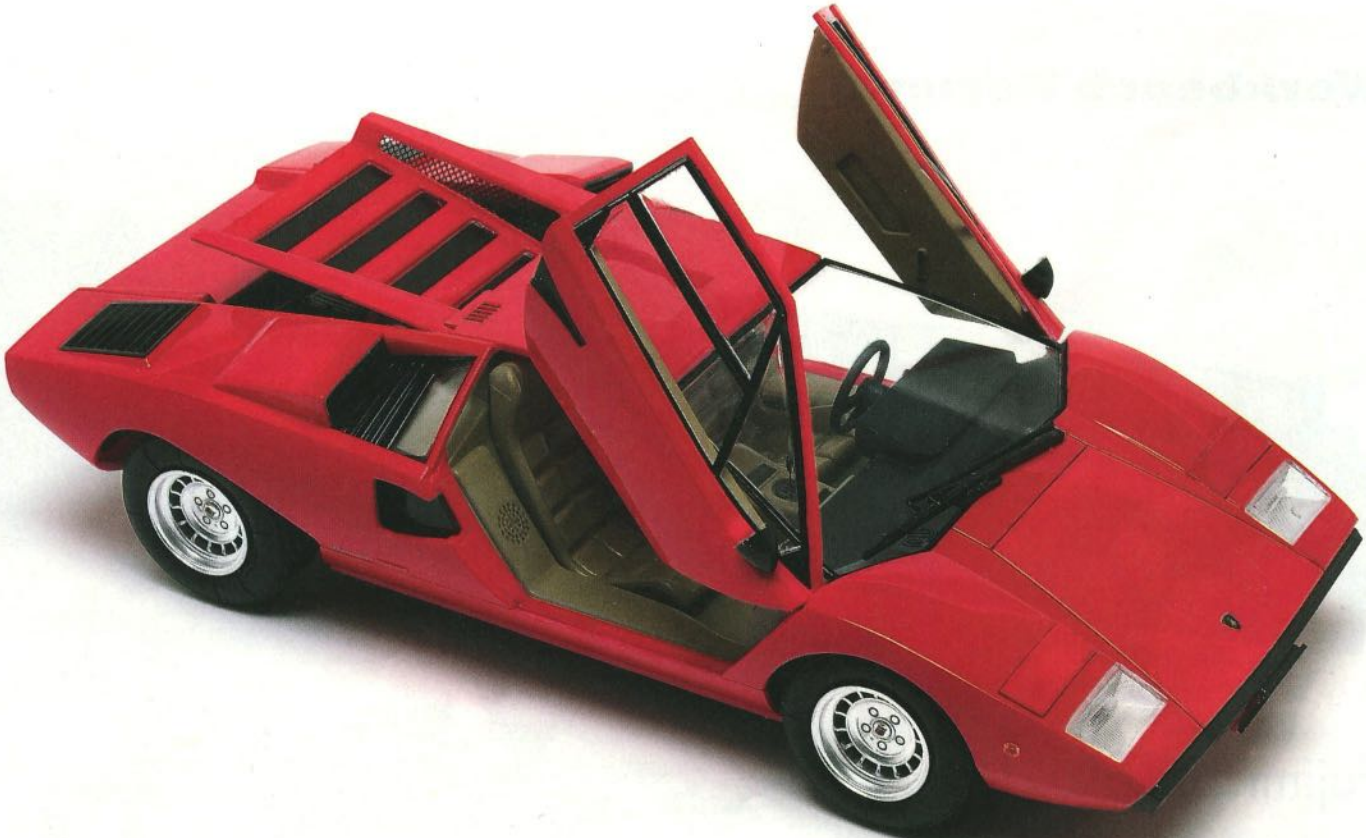
This is a beautiful, well-engineered model, and, despite its size and number of parts, it's actually a relatively simple build. The only reason I spent somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 hours building it was the masking required for the complex paint scheme.

Summary, with pun intended: *Suuu-weet!*

– Walt Fink

Su-33
FLANKER D

Kit: No. E35 **Scale:** 1/72
Manufacturer: Hasegawa, www.hasegawa-model.co.jp, from Great Planes Model Distributors, 217-398-3630, www.hasegawausa.com **Price:** $55
Comments: Injection-molded, 209 parts, decals **Pros:** Gorgeous, crisp moldings; great fit (mostly); fine detail
Cons: Questionable color specs



Aoshima Lamborghini Countach LP400

The LP400, Lamborghini's first Countach design, turned many heads turning during the mid-'70s. Scissor doors, bold tires, and a wedge shape made it look like a car that came from the future. But with its 4.0-liter V-12 engine, the Countach was much more than just looks — it packed a real punch.

Tightly packed into Aoshima's box are 18 sprues holding 153 parts, as well as four vinyl tires, a sheet of mesh, painting masks, and a decal sheet. The parts are molded in white, black, or gray styrene and are completely flash-free; I was amazed at how crisp the moldings were.

BE CAREFUL WITH THE BODY, THOUGH.

The directions come as a 12-page, 29-step booklet. A painting guide and parts-tree map are also included. The directions are clear and easy to follow.

Assembly begins with the chassis and suspension. Take care with the suspension so all four wheels are firmly grounded. The rims are prepainted in aluminum and look accurate according to my reference photos.

The interior is the next major assembly.

Scale Auto MAGAZINE

For more stories on how to build great car models, read *Scale Auto* magazine.

I chose to go with a tan interior, which matched the photos I had on hand. (Some do have a black suede interior.) Decals are provided for the instruments and steering-wheel emblem. The seats are accurately represented and fit nicely; the only things missing are the seat belts.

The V-12 engine shines, especially with the hood open, although you have the option of leaving the hood closed. Headlights can be positioned up or down, too. The engine and headlights are both easy assemblies.

Be careful with the body, though. The frames for the windshield are extremely thin and could easily snap in half. I also noticed a crack down the center of the trunk that appeared as I was attaching the body to the chassis. This might have happened when I was polishing the paint, or it may have been there all along.

The clear parts looked great and were scratch-free. The windshield fit snugly with no problem.

The scissor doors are a good part of what sets this car apart. You can pose them opened or closed; having them open exposes a fantastic, clearly visible interior. The side skirts and bumpers fit nicely, giving the Countach its famous look.

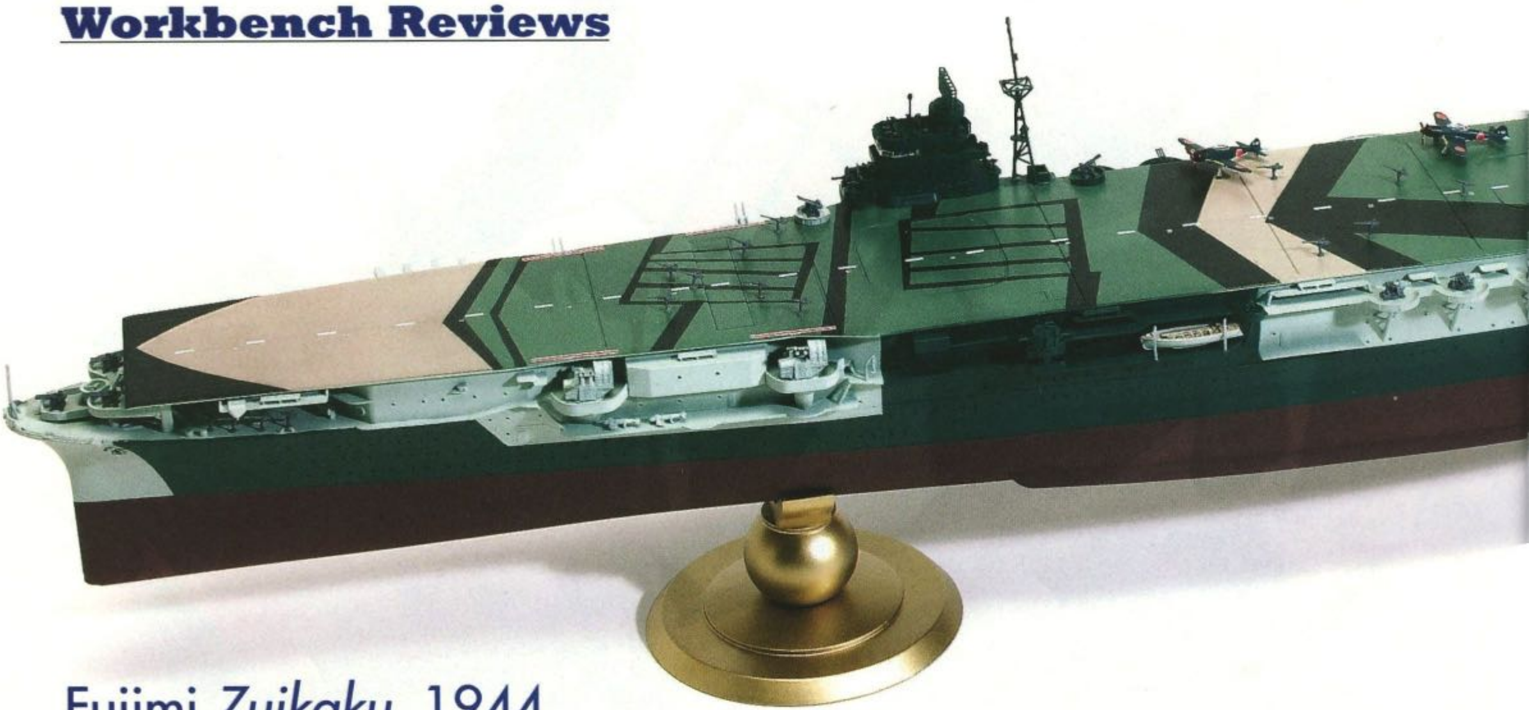
I airbrushed my model with Tamiya Italian red lacquer and Tamiya clear (both decanted from spray cans), polishing both the paint and the clear coat for a little extra shine. Decals went over the clear coat with no troubles. I used a little Micro Set just to make sure there would be no silvering.

My Countach took me about 15 hours to complete, which is par for a car model that is this complex. If you've built a few kits, you should have no problems at all turning out a showroom Lamborghini.

– Chris Oglesby

1/24 SCALE
Lamborghini Countach LP400

Kit: No. 5046708 **Scale:** 1/24
Manufacturer: Aoshima, www.aoshima-bk.co.jp, from Dragon Model USA, 626-968-0322, www.dragonmodelsusa.com
Price: $75.98 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 153 parts (four vinyl tires), decals **Pros:** Top-notch fit; excellent surface detail **Cons:** Extremely delicate body



Fujimi *Zuikaku*, 1944

The *Zuikaku* (Happy Crane) and sister ship *Shokaku* (Flying Crane) were Japan's most modern and capable aircraft carriers in World War II. With the exception of Midway, *Zuikaku* was in every major carrier battle in the Pacific, from Pearl Harbor to Cape Engaño, where it was sunk by American torpedoes and bombs in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944.

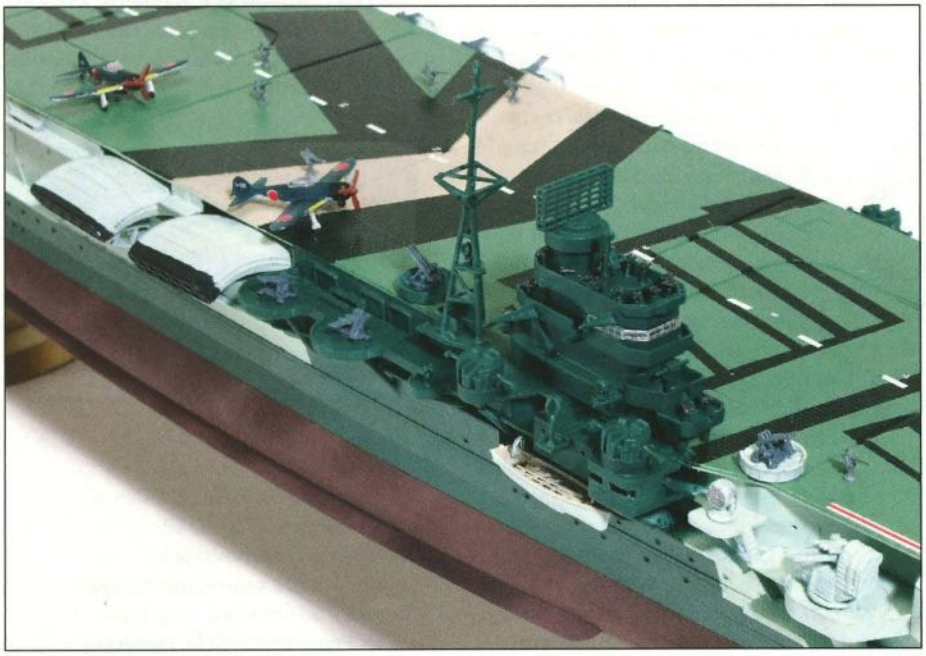
Fujimi's new kit represents the *Zuikaku* as it was that October. Parts are molded in gray and clear plastic. There is little flash and not many mold marks. A few thicker parts have sink marks that need to be filled.

However, most of the detail is excellent: The 5" and 25mm guns have all the detail you could ask for, while the flight deck has delicate planking and tie-downs. But the expansion joints are recessed where they should be raised. Eight aircraft are included: two each of the Jill, Kate, Zero 52, and Zero 21. Optional bomb loads are provided. The aircraft are nice little kits. Chain is included for the anchors.

The photoetched metal is good, but I didn't see instructions for it. I discovered too late that the instructions are on the color painting guide; even so, they're not that great.

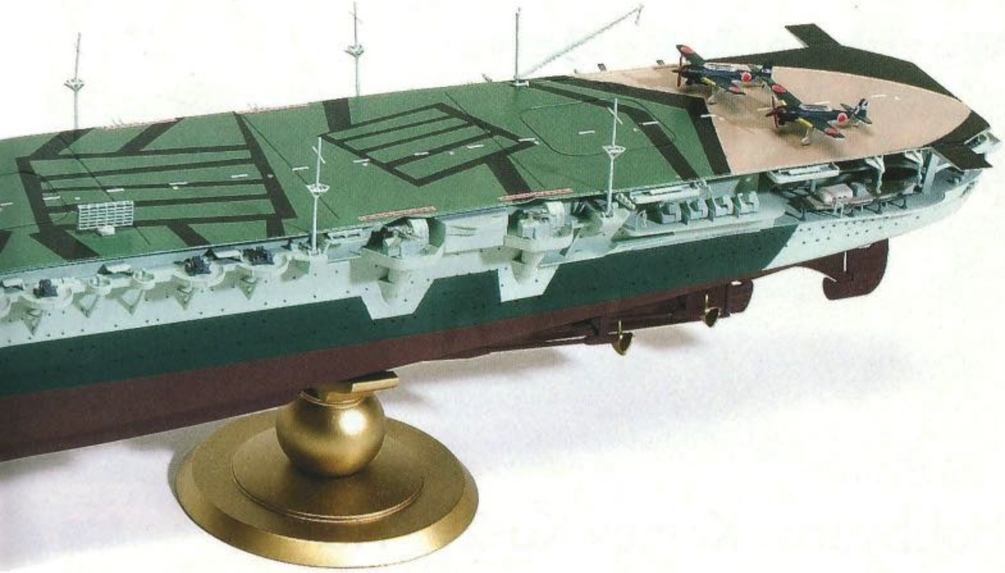
The kit instructions are well drawn, with some side views that show placement of the inclined ladders and other parts. There are a few mistakes, though. In Step 3 you will need to make six guns. Step 4 tells you to drill out holes, but there are no guide marks. I had trouble aligning parts in Step 6, particularly Part H25. Make sure to test-fit the flight deck to check alignment.

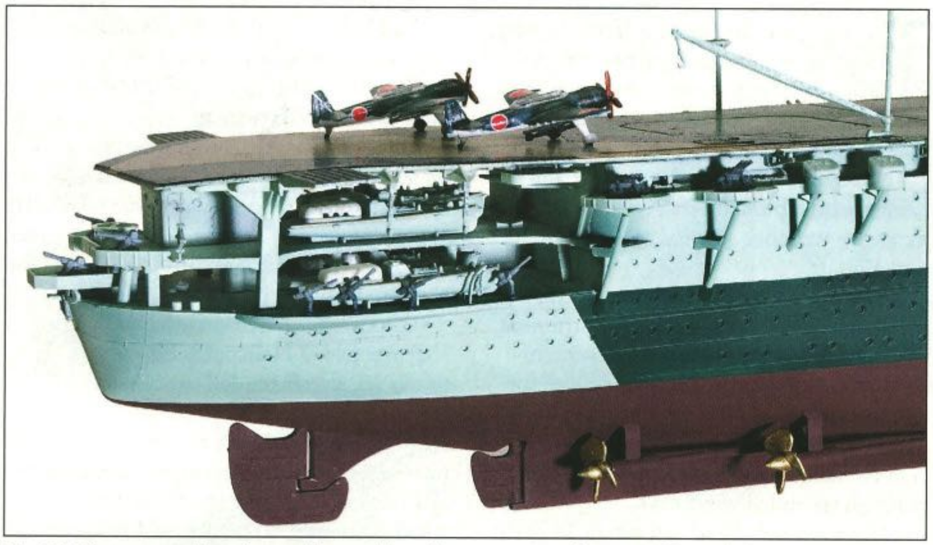
The flight deck is one thing I would like to do over. Brass parts are provided to go on or into the recessed expansion joints. I



Charlie photocopied the full-size painting diagram to create masks for the *Zuikaku*'s elaborate camouflage. The kit has a detailed island and weapons.

Kit: No. 60004 **Scale:** 1/350
Manufacturer: Fujimi, www.fujimimokei.com, from Dragon Models USA, 626-968-0322, www.dragonmodelsusa.com
Price: $299.95 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 1,026 parts (38 photoetched metal, 13 vinyl), decals **Pros:** Crisply molded; delicate, to-scale pieces; great painting guide **Cons:** Ejector-pin marks in inconvenient places; no instructions for photoetched-metal pieces; a few sink marks on thicker pieces





The kit's features, such as the tandem rudders, four screws, and exposed boat deck structure at the stern, as well as the air wing, produce a beautifully detailed, 2½'-long model.

recommend gluing the elevators flush and forgetting about the elevator wells — there is no hangar to see, anyway. Next, glue the flight deck to the hull. Use the painting guide to place the brass strips, then the arrester gear. Paint the entire flight deck, mask it, then paint the rest of the ship. It is much easier to mask the deck than the ship.

I assembled and painted all the guns and small parts separately, then added them to the hull. The radio antennas can be movable; I chose to leave them off until the very end and just glued them in place.

The kit decals are in register and behave well. The deck strip went down nicely over a couple of coats of clear, and there was no problem with silvering.

Fujimi includes a great painting guide, a color poster of the camouflage in 1/350 scale. I used photocopies to make masking templates for the flight deck; Scotch two-sided tape worked well. I painted the camouflage with White Ensign enamels and used Humbrol hull red and Floquil engine black as well. Photos of the *Zuikaku* are hard to find. My only reference was *Perfect Guide: The Aircraft Carriers of the Imperial Japanese Navy & Army* (Gakken's, ISBN 4-05-603055-3I).

DECALS … BEHAVE … DECK STRIP WENT … NICELY OVER A COUPLE OF COATS OF CLEAR

I spent about 65 hours building this kit, more than I wanted, but some of that may have been self-inflicted. Excluding the problems with instructions for the photoetched metal, this is an excellent kit I'd recommend to anyone who has built some of the newer kits with photoetched-metal details.

– Charlie Scardon

IN THIS ISSUE

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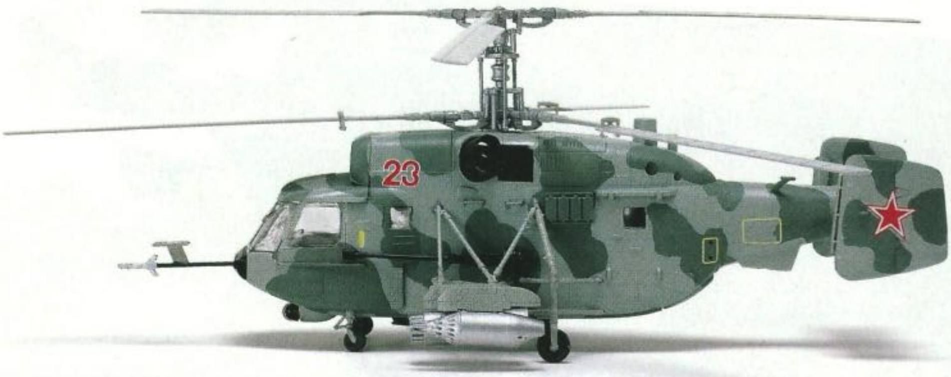

HobbyBoss Kamov Ka-29 "Helix-B"

The Russians do a good job of adapting existing equipment to tasks outside its original design. One such example is the Ka-29 "Helix-B," which is a naval helicopter made into a flying tank.

HobbyBoss' kit includes cockpit and cabin detail, optional sensor packs, an extensive weapons set, and markings for two aircraft.

Building the cockpit is a straightforward affair. There is no detail on the instrument panels, nor is there a decal for the instrument panel. The cabin furnishings are for the naval troop version. None of the ammo cases or structure to mount the 30mm cannon are included (not that they can be seen through the small windows).

The rotor masthead comprises 24 parts. Care must be taken in the alignment of the counter-rotating blade offset. There is no keying or jig to help with this. Once the assembly was glued and dried, I added the blades and set it all aside for final assembly.

Adding the interior to the fuselage halves was no trouble. The cockpit doors and windows had slight gaps between them that I filled with white glue. I also had to fill in the gap between the engine intakes and the fuselage (also with white glue). There are optional sensor packs, but no instructions on which ones to use. I painted the exhaust deflectors Testors Metalizer exhaust.

The weapons pylons were a little tricky to assemble and install on the fuselage sides. The instructions missed the upper hole on the port side. The rear landing supports (parts C50 and 50) have a notch for the pylon support (parts B22 and B17) to tie into.

My biggest problem was choosing weapons. I added B-8s and UB-32s to my helicopter; you'll have to look at references in the instructions to arm yours.

I added the small parts and clear parts at final assembly. Then I added the rotor blades and found they sat a little too low, with the blades hitting the top of the fuselage. You'll need to bring the rotor assembly up slightly to clear.

I painted the model with Gunze aircraft gray and a mix of Testors British dark green and gull gray, using Silly Putty as masks for the camouflage scheme.

Choosing the markings for Red 23 of "Mistral LHD Helicopter Sqn. 2010," I found the decals tended to stick quickly and were hard to move into place.

It took me 20 hours to complete this project. However, a less-experienced modeler might have more trouble with the trickier assemblies. So, I would recommend this one only to modelers of intermediate or better skills — beginners may find the instructions and design do not provide sufficient guidance.

– Tom Foti

Kamov Ka-29 Helix-B

カモフ Ka-29

Kit: No. 87227 **Scale:** 1/72 **Manufacturer:** HobbyBoss, www.hobbyboss.com, from Squadron Mail Order, 877-414-0434, www.squadron.com **Price:** $33.99 **Comments:** Injection-molded, 229 parts, decals **Pros:** Accurate shapes; good level of detail **Cons:** Simplified interior; minor fit issues; rotor blades sit slightly too low

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COMING EVENTS

AL, HUNTSVILLE: Huntsville Plastic Modelers' Society 35th Annual Model Show. Jaycees Community Building, 2180 Airport Road. October 1st, 2011. 8:00am-4:00pm. Free admission. Model Registration: $10 1st model, $2 ea additional, $2 IPMS discount, $1/model for 16 and under. Vendor tables $25 through August 31st, $35 after. Vendor Info: Phil Cassibry, 256-837-7293, vendors@hpmsweb.topcities.com. General info: http://hpmsweb.topcities.com

FL, ORLANDO: Modelpalooza 2011 Regional Show. Address: Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive. Saturday, October 1 - Sunday, October 2, 2011. Room Rates $79 Double/Single 800-421-8001. Featuring Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. 75 vending tables available. Free reception in hospitality suite Saturday night. Vendors: Joe Cifrian 407-754-8921 Contestants: Randy Riley 407-536-7267 General Information www.ipmsorlando.com

IL, WHEATON: 58th Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Road. September 25, 2011, 9:00am-3:00pm. Adults $5.00 children under 12 years $2.00. 250 tables available. Past-Time Hobbies, Inc. 630-969-1847.

KS, WICHITA: ConAir 2011 Model Show & Contest. Kansas Aviation Museum, 3350 South George Washington Blvd. October 15, 2011, Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm. Museum Admission Required $8.00 Adults, $7.00 Seniors, $6.00 Children (4-12), no charge under 3. Theme Award "Remembering Pearl Harbor". Contact Mark Vittorini 316-440-6846, contact@aircapitalipms.org or Shawn Phillips: 316-683-7222 or Website: www.aircapitalipms.org

MA, LAWRENCE: Classic Plastic Model Club 19th Annual Model Car Exhibition. Elks Hall. Sunday, September 18th, 2011. 8:30am-4:00pm. 31 classes including military, 9 "Best Of" awards. Theme: Any Tri-5 Chevies. Food, raffle, vendors all in one hall. $5.00 admission donation, 17 and younger FREE. $3.00 each model. Information: Paul at 978-371-2316 or visit: www.classicplastic.org

MN, FRIDLEY: Nordic-Con Model Show and Contest with vendor room, raffle and special interest awards. North Aire Banquet Hall, 6831 Highway 65 NE. Saturday, September 24, 2011, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Contact Bob Maderich @ 612-423-2985 or robertmaderich69@hotmail.com or Sean Brzozowski at spitfire.mk5b@gmail.com or our website www.aerohistorians.org

NH, NASHUA: IPMS Granite State presents Granitecon XIX. Sunday, October 16th, 2011, 9:00am-4:00pm. Nashua Elks Club, 120 Daniel Webster Hwy. General admission $2.00. First 5 adult entries $5.00. Unlimited junior entries $3.00. For additional details, contact Rodney Currier, 603-726-3876. Visit http://home.comcast.net/~vf84/.

NY, POUGHKEEPSIE: HVHMG 2011 Celebrating 25 years, Elks Club Lodge, Overocker Rd. October 22, 2011. Sponsored by IPMS Mid-Hudson. Registration 9:00am-noon. More information at www.HVHMG.com or contact John Gallagher at ggallagherjoh@optonline.net or 845-462-4740.

CANADA, AJAX, ONTARIO: Ajax 31 Model Contest. J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate, 1355 Harwood Ave. N. Saturday, October 29th, 2011 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission: $2.00, Model entry $2 to max $10 (no limit on models). Sponsored by IPMS Toronto, IPMS De Havilland & Peel Scale Modelers. Contact: Bernie Hengst: 705-878-1740 or berniehengst@xplornet.ca

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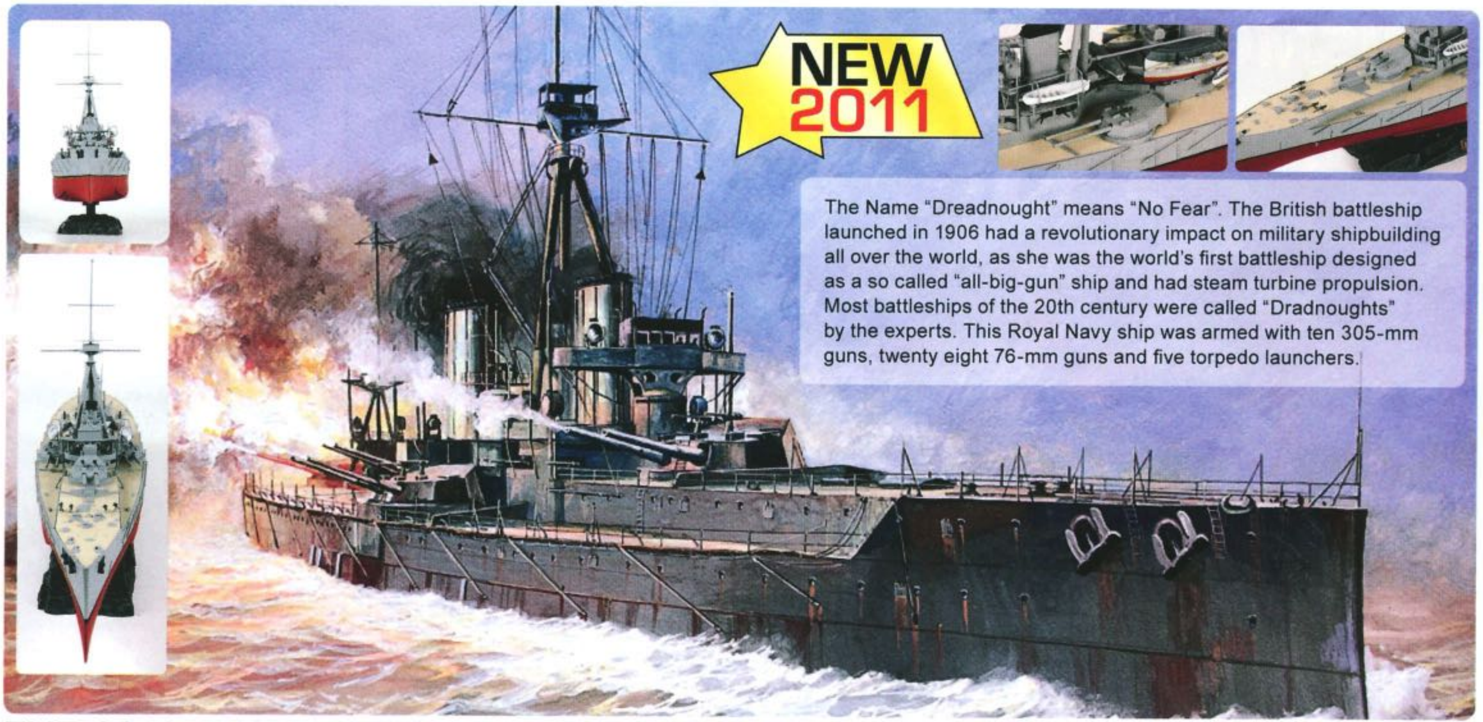

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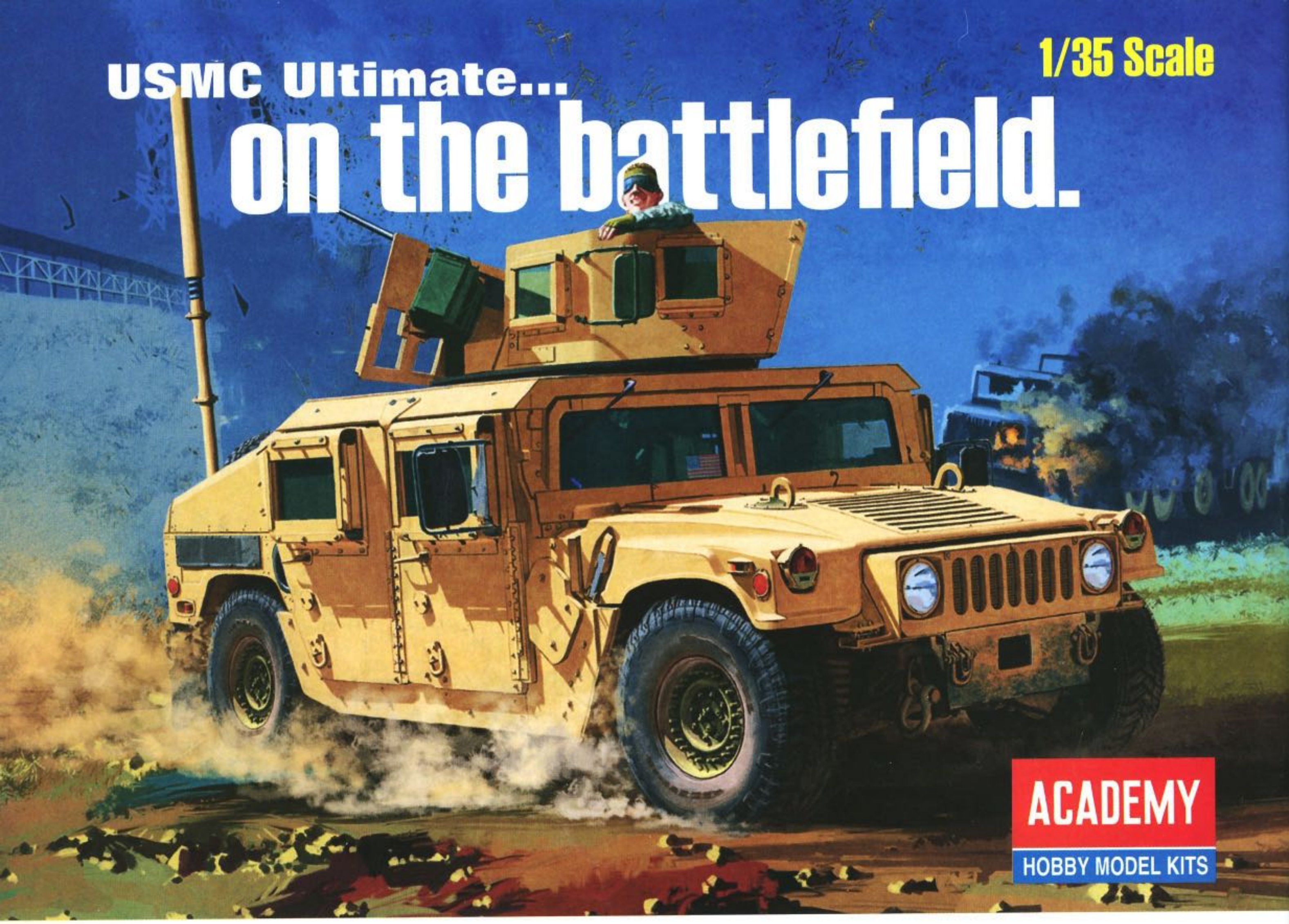

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